

OSWESTRY & BORDER CHRONICLE



Thursday, January 22, 2015

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mna media

Schools revamp concerns parents

PARENTS who fear their primary school will close to make way for a new £8 million 'super school' say they will fight on.

More than 30 parents at Leighton Primary School, near Welshpool, gathered at the village hall on Tuesday night to discuss the plans.

Holly Dyer, a parent and governor at the school told parents: "The county council is concerned about the school infrastructure in the area and it could end up with our school closing."

"Lots of us wouldn't want our children going to a 500-pupil super school."

Mrs Dyer said the council's consultation will be held in March and urged parents to have their say.

Powys County Council bosses say no decisions have yet been taken in the review of Welshpool area schools.

Meanwhile a report on the future of secondary schools in Powys will go before cabinet on Tuesday. Council bosses say secondary schools could close in the review.

Cabinet member for schools Councillor Arwel Jones said: "It is work that cannot be rushed but could result in three fewer secondary schools, fewer sixth-forms and a different Welsh medium provision."

"Whatever the final configuration, our commitment is the service on offer will rival the very best the country has to offer."

Plea to save village pub supported

VILLAGERS in Kinnerley have pledged support to a bid to reopen the village pub as a community run venture.

About 75 people crowded into the village hall this week for a public meeting to see if the currently closed Cross Keys pub had a future. Organisers say the will to see the pub reopen was very evident and say now residents have to fight plans to turn it into housing.

The Cross Keys shut following a fire last year and its owner has applied for permission to convert it into three homes and build a fourth on the pub garden.

But campaigners say the building has been a drinking establishment for more than a century.

Tractor hangs over bridge edge after crash



The tractor struck safety railings on the A5 Chirk bypass bridge after the road collision

A TRACTOR crashed through safety railings on the A5 Chirk bypass bridge and came just feet from plunging to the ground below.

The tractor was left hanging precariously over the edge of the bridge after being involved in a three-vehicle collision on the busy trunk route.

The vehicle was left hanging over the bridge edge above the River Ceiriog on the A5 between the Gledrid and Halton roundabouts.

The crash involving the tractor and two cars happened shortly before 2pm on Monday.

Firefighters cut one man out of the wreckage of one of the cars and he was taken to Wrexham Maelor Hospital for further treatment.

Two other people were treated at the scene. Traffic was diverted through Chirk and long tail-backs built up during the afternoon.

The road was closed all Monday evening following the accident and remained closed throughout most of Tuesday for road and barrier repairs.

The near tragedy has prompted fresh calls for safety measures on the route.

Chirk Councillor Terry Evans said it was lucky that none of the vehicles plunged over the bridge. He said: "Someone could easily have been killed in the crash."

"As well as the injuries and possible loss of life, accidents on this stretch of road mean traffic is diverted through Chirk. It has been chaos in the town this week."

"Chirk Town Council has been calling for improvements to that stretch of road for years. It should have been a dual carriageway from the beginning."

"I really can't see the road being dualled in my lifetime." Councillor Evans said the bridge section needed strong crash barriers.

He added: "Also I believe the entire stretch of the A5/A483, from the Mile End roundabout at Oswestry to the dual carriageway at Ruabon should be controlled by average speed cameras."

Ashdown steps in on pylon conflict

FORMER Liberal Democrat leader Lord Ashdown will step into the row over plans to build pylons across Shropshire and Mid Wales during a visit to the region.

Montgomeryshire Lib Dem parliamentary candidate Jane Dodds has invited Lord Ashdown to come to Welshpool, with the visit due to take place today. (Thursday)

Miss Dodds will launch a "No More Pylons" petition during the meeting against plans by National Grid.

Campaigners want National Grid to bury a planned electric cable carrying power generated from planned windfarms from a substation at Cefn Coch, near Llanfair Caereinion to Lower Frankton, near Oswestry rather than use pylons on some of the route.

Staff at the British Ironwork Centre at Aston near Oswestry yesterday picketed the cars of National Grid officials when talks over plans to install a pylon at the site became heated. Police were called to the incident.

Centre bosses want the overhead route diverted around the visitor attraction or for the cable to be run underground amid fears pylons will ruin the countryside.

Meanwhile villagers near Oswestry are due to attend a public meeting this evening to discuss the pylons. The meeting will be held at 7.30pm at Maesbrook Village Hall.

Bid to list tollhouse to carry on

OSWESTRY Town Council is to appeal to the Government over English Heritage's decision not to declare a tollhouse a listed building.

The national body has turned down a bid for the Gate House on Shrewsbury Road to be listed as being "of historic importance".

At this week's meeting of Oswestry Town Council councillors voted to appeal to overturn the decision.

Councillor Sandy Best said: "We owe it to the public who called for the tollhouse to be listed to take the matter to the next stage."

Discount food store Aldi wants to demolish the tollhouse, built in 1830, to make way for a proposed supermarket.

FARMING CRISIS FEARS INCREASE

WARNINGS have been issued that the current milk price crisis could decimate the dairy industry in the Welshpool and Oswestry areas with farmers selling their herds and some even selling their farms.

The fears have been expressed after Montgomeryshire MP Glyn Davies met worried farmers at Welshpool livestock market this week to discuss the effect plummeting prices are having on the area's farming industry.

The MP, a former dairy farmer, said that while the long term future would steady, he was pessimistic about the short term.

He also raised his fears during Prime Minister's Questions in Parliament yesterday (Wednesday) with David Cameron saying he shared his concerns.

Report by Sue Austin

Those fears were this week echoed by Shropshire Council Leader Keith Barrow. The councillor, from Trefonen near Oswestry, has written to First Milk chairman Jim Paice about its decision to defer payment of 'milk cheques' to farmers.

Mr Davies said: "I really can't remember dairy farming been so bad, in terms of the uncertainty that farmers are facing."

"Dairy farming is a way of life and this could devastate families. Unless there is a dramatic turnaround then an awful lot of farmers will be leaving dairy and many will be getting out of farming altogether."

"That will effect this area which depends so much on the dairy industry."

Councillor Barrow, who represents the Oswestry South Division at Shropshire Council, said he had written to First Milk because the unitary authority has "important and strong links" with the farming industry and rural community in the county.

He added: "We have been extremely concerned to learn of the pressure which has now been placed on dairy farmers who are members of First Milk, as a consequence of deferring their payments for supplies of milk and reducing their net payments through capital contributions and price cuts."

"The feedback we have had from farmers is that these policy changes within First Milk will have a devastating impact on farmers' cash flow and the future sustainability of their business."

Meanwhile, Montgomeryshire dairy farmers have warned a Welsh Government farming chief they "cannot take any more pain".

Rebecca Evans, Welsh Government deputy minister for agriculture, met six dairy farmers at NFU Montgomeryshire chairman Jonathan Wilkinson's Dyffryn farm in Meifod near Welshpool on Thursday last week.

Mr Wilkinson said: "The main message was please appreciate the desperate situation on many Welsh dairy farms. Please impress on milk buyers that we cannot take any more pain."



Councillor Keith Barrow

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PICTURE PREVIEW



What is Bertie the pony looking for? Find out by turning to Page 12

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Meeting told of hopes for reopening of town's canal

Report by Sue Austin

OPENING up the Montgomery Canal to connect Welshpool to the national waterway system would transform the town and bring major economic benefits, it has been claimed.

Councillor Malcolm Douglas, the town's mayor, said there had been a "real will" to bring the navigable canal to Welshpool at a meeting of experts and enthusiasts looking at the feasibility of restoring dry sections of the waterway. But he admitted there were also many obstacles to overcome.

More than 100 drivers fail road drink test

MORE than 100 drink drivers were caught on the roads of Mid Wales during a month-long crackdown.

Police carried out 8,204 breath tests during its Christmas anti-drink drive campaign, with 140 failing the test. The force said it was "disappointed" with the number of people caught.

Dyfed Powys Police's Deputy Chief Constable Carl Langley said: "It is disappointing that so many drivers throughout Wales chose to risk their own lives, and the lives of others during the campaign. We were clear in our messages throughout the campaign that drink or drug driving is not acceptable, and will not be tolerated."

"But those that chose to break the law and endanger themselves and other road users arrogantly were in the minority, and we thank the public that showed support for the campaign and were happy to co-operate. Drink driving ruins lives all year round, and our efforts to combat it continue throughout the year."

Although Welshpool's town centre canal has narrowboat mooring and a lock gate, the canal goes nowhere. Only a small stretch of the 'Monty' is navigable either side of the town and to join to Britain's vast network of waterways a large section would have to be restored between Pool Quay and Gronwen Wharf, near Oswestry.

The meeting in the town was attended by representatives from a wide range of organisations including the town and county councils, the Canal and Rivers Trust, the Heulwen Trust and a number of canal organisations.

Councillor Douglas said: "There are physical obstacles such as road crossings and a large dry section near Llanymynech."

"There is also the ecology of the canal to consider. So rare are some of the plants that grow in the canal now that sections have been declared sites of special scientific interest - they will have to be protected before the canal can become navigable again."

He said financing the restoration was the biggest obstacle. "Much of the restoration so far has been done through volunteers and lottery grants," he said.

Lucky escape after waterway topple



The lorry plunged into the Montgomery Canal after the vehicle came off the A483 road

A LORRY driver had a lucky escape after his truck toppled into the Montgomery Canal.

The lorry was carrying a load of sugar beet pellets when it crashed on the A483 between Abermule and Garthmyl, sparking an environmental alert on the canal which runs through Mid Wales.

The driver managed to climb out of his cab, unhurt, before emergency services arrived. His vehicle was left half submerged in the canal which runs alongside the main road.

The two are separated by a crash barrier but the lorry fell over the top

of the structure into the Montgomery Canal. The accident happened on Monday and engineers were left with the headache of how to remove the lorry after initial attempts to right the vehicle proved unsuccessful.

The drama happened at 2pm on Monday with the trunk road reopened in the evening.

Newtown fire crews helped at the scene ensuring no-one was in the cab and making the area safe.

Firefighters from Mid and West Wales Fire service launched two specialist rescue boats on the canal to inspect the scene.

An environmental alert was issued with officers from Natural Resources Wales travelling to the area.

Rob Ireson, senior environment officer for Natural Resources Wales, said: "Our officers were on site working with the fire service, police and specialist contractors to remove the trailer containing approximately 28 tonnes of sugar beet pellets from the canal."

"Special booms were being placed in the canal to contain any spilled fuel, oil and pellets and we worked alongside the emergency services to reduce the risk of harm to the environment."

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Four to stand in battle for council

THERE are four people standing for the vacant Shropshire Council seat representing Oswestry, following the resignation of long standing councillor Martin Bennett.

The election for the Oswestry East seat will be held on February 12, along with an election for Mr Bennett's Cabin Lane seat on Oswestry Town Council.

Those nominated for the unitary authority are: Duncan Kerr of the Green Party; Claire Rebecca Norris, Labour; John Price, Conservative; Amanda Woof, Liberal Democrats. Standing for the town council are: David Baines, Ian Garland, Romer Hoseason, Mark Jones, Gary Williams, Christopher Wood. An election is also to be held for a vacant seat on Oswestry Town Council to replace Councillor Bill Benyon. Mr Benyon had been a councillor since 2003 and over the past decade has served on Oswestry Town Council, as a borough councillor and a Shropshire Council member.

Mr Benyon is standing down because of failing eyesight. At Monday's town council meeting tributes were paid to the work of both Mr Bennett and Mr Benyon, recognising that between them they had given over half a century of dedication to the council.

Blaze alert at museum

FIREFIGHTERS were called to attend a fire which was started by a gramophone in Oswestry's town museum.

Alarms in the Guildhall alerted staff after smoke started to come from the machine at about 9.15pm on Tuesday.

Two fire appliances were sent out to Bailey Head to deal with the incident.

Traders in business plea ahead of closure of route

Report by Sue Austin

SHOPPERS are being urged to support traders in Oswestry while gas work closes a town centre road for more than a fortnight.

Although cars will be banned from Leg Street and parts of Beatrice Street, pedestrians will still be able to access the shops and restaurants on the two roads.

The current gas pipes will be upgraded to ensure the gas supply to the area remains safe and reliable for at least the next 80 years.

Wales & West Utilities will replace 63 metres of old metal gas pipes with new plastic pipes in parts of Leg Street, Albion Hill and Beatrice Street.

The work will take about three weeks to complete and is due to start on Monday.

Helen Hughes, who with Tina Evans runs the Salon IV hairdressers in Beatrice Street, said traders will be open as usual throughout the road closure.

"Although the road will be shut the salon will most definitely be open," she said.

"We are looking forward to welcoming our clients as normal and we hope shoppers will still support all the businesses in the area."

David Thomas, Wales & West Utilities project manager for the scheme, said: "It is essential that we replace these gas pipes, so we can make sure that we can continue to provide a safe and reliable gas supply to this part of Oswestry."

"We are carrying out this work now so that we can reduce the risk of gas leaks occurring on this part of our network and minimise the need for us to carry out costly and disruptive ad-hoc repairs."

"To keep local people, road users and our workforce safe while we are working, we will have a temporary road closure on Leg Street, with a diversionary route well signposted. We appreciate that working in communities is disruptive, but this is important work and we will try to keep disruption to a minimum."

"The scheme has been planned in close coordination with the local authority and everyone whose gas supply will be directly affected will receive an information letter about how it will impact on them."

The project is part of the company's multi-million-pound 30-year mains replacement programme which began in 2002. Old metal pipes within 30 metres of buildings are being replaced with new long-lasting plastic pipes with a lifespan of more than 80 years.

The work will be carried out by contractors AMEC Foster Wheeler, on behalf of Wales & West Utilities.

Once work starts, people can approach the team on site with any questions or call 0800 9122999 for more information.

Daffs take on the elements



Eleri Breeze takes a look at her early flowering daffodils

IT may be winter outside but in the daffodils' minds it's spring.

A host of golden daffodils have emerged a month early outside a bread and breakfast business near Welshpool.

And the appearance of the flowers at the Tan y Graig bed and breakfast home near Meifod has come as much to the surprise of owner Eleri Breeze.

The flowers have so far weathered high winds, torrential rain and then sub-zero temperatures over recent days.

Mrs Breeze said she first noticed that the hardy daffodils had bloomed on New Year's Day.

She said: "They are a lot shorter that they usually are which is probably a good

thing as any taller and these winds would have snapped them off.

"Already they have survived the snow earlier and the torrential rain and winds that we had. "They must be a tough variety."

"Normally we wouldn't see any daffodils for at least another month."

"There are a lot more that are in bud still."

"When they all come out they are quite a spectacular display."

"Visitors to the bed-and-breakfast like to wander round the garden and enjoy the flowers."

"At the moment we have a lot of pinks and purples from the heather."

Former vehicle firm owner dies

A RETIRED businessman whose interests in mechanics on the family farm led to him becoming a major force in the Shropshire motoring world has died.

Ron Williams from Queen's Head, near Oswestry, died at the age of 85. Aged eight Mr Williams moved with his family to Rednal Farm near Oswestry where he worked after leaving school.

He bought a garage in Queens Head and moved into the house there with wife Joan, a house he was to live in until his death. Mr Williams specialised in used cars and in 1979 he took on the VW and Audi dealership. He took over the Arthurs Garage and bought the EJ Gittens dealership in 1986 which became the current Arthurs Vauxhall dealership in Lower Brook Street in 1993.

Man facing drug supply claims

A MAN has appeared in court charged with dealing Class A drugs.

Barry Hodgson, of Lorne Street, Oswestry is also charged with possessing a bladed article in a public place and being in possession of criminal property, namely £1,259 in cash. He is accused of supplying heroin and cocaine relating to an incident on January 14.

Hodgson, 52, entered no plea when he appeared at Telford Magistrates Court on Friday and the case was sent to Shrewsbury Crown Court.

No plea given on rape allegation

A MAN has appeared at court charged with rape following an incident in Oswestry during the early hours of New Year's Day.

Howard Long, 31, of Melverley, appeared at Shrewsbury Crown Court on Monday. He entered no plea to a charge of rape and two further charges of attempted rape.

Long was remanded in custody.

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Firm's chief delighted at spaceship project success



Per Lindstrand

Report by Sue Austin

BOSSES at Oswestry-based Lindstrand Technologies said they were never in any doubt the parachutes they made to allow the Beagle 2 landing spacecraft to land in one piece on Mars would do their job.

Company boss Per Lindstrand was speaking after it was proved the British spacecraft that disappeared as it approached Mars did successfully land on the Red Planet's surface.

The news is a relief to scientists behind the £50 million project – as well as staff at Lindstrand Technologies who designed the parachute that was given the job of ensuring the craft had a safe landing.

High resolution pictures show The Beagle 2 probe, named after the ship used by Shrewsbury's Charles Darwin, is on the surface and intact.

It had been assumed the craft had been destroyed. But the images taken from 185 miles above Mars in 2013 and again last year show that the small lander, the size of a large motorcycle tyre, touched down successfully.

However, they believe it did not fully deploy its panels, preventing it from contacting Earth. Lindstrand Technologies, based in Maesbury Road, Oswestry, created the most advanced parachute ever built or the Beagle 2 project. It enable the craft to slow down from speeds of Mach 1.3 to just 17 metres per second. Mr Lindstrand said he had never been in doubt that they would work.

And he declared: "There will always be a piece of Shropshire on Mars."

He said it was great to know that the craft had reached the planet and said that he had been proud to be involved with such an exciting project.

But he said his one sadness was that scientist Colin Pillinger had died before knowing that his project had succeeded in getting to its destination. "Colin would have been so proud that the European/UK craft had been a success and had reached Mars. It is very sad that he died last year," Mr Lindstrand.

"Finding the parachutes on the surface of Mars means that Lindstrand Technologies is one of only two companies worldwide that has successfully deployed parachutes in outer space. It also means there is something 'Made in Shropshire' on Mars."

The work record breaking balloonist successfully tendered for the contract to make the parachutes for the expedition in 2002.

Panto cash is handed over



Panto cast member Alice Strachan with Hanna Carpenter-Jackson from the hospice. GENEROUS pantomime fans have been thanked after raising more than £5,000 for a children's hospice.

The cast of Peter Pan, who have been performing at Theatre Severn in Shrewsbury for the past month, visited Hope House Children's Hospice near Oswestry, to hand over the belated Christmas present to hospice staff.

A total of £5,477 was donated by the audience at the shows and collected in buckets at the urging of the panto dame Mrs Smee, also known as Brad Pitt.

Vanessa Thomas, spokeswoman for Hope House, said: "Our income's been going down year on year but this collection has been going up. For the past five years

they've done a bucket collection at the matinees for us. It's organised by Brad Pitt, who organises the pantomime each year.

"The donations seem to grow by £500 each year with Brad on stage encouraging people to empty their pockets as they leave the theatre after the show. We can't thank him enough." Mr Pitt started the charity collections while he was doing pantomime in Cambridge and when he started to visit Shropshire four years ago he kept it going.

"I used to collect in Cambridge for the local children's hospice and when I came here Eric Smith, from Radio Shropshire, who is also in the pantomime, said Hope House is the one to collect for here," he said.

Man given suspended prison term

A FORMER Shropshire man who admitted possessing thousands of indecent photographs of children has been given a suspended jail sentence.

Police investigators found 3,596 images on two computers used by Sean Patrick Molloy.

Molloy, 27, of Atherton Street, New Brighton, Wallasey, was handed a 12-month jail sentence suspended for two years, a two-year supervision order, told to attend a sex offender programme and made the subject of an indefinite Sexual Offences Prevention Order at Liverpool Crown Court.

He admitted three charges of making indecent photographs of children and admitted possession of indecent photographs of children. The court heard police found indecent images on Molloy's hard drive. He was released on bail and moved to his girlfriend's address in Oswestry. But when a laptop belonging to his girlfriend was examined, more indecent images were discovered.

Paul Davison, defending, said his client believed he would go to prison when he was first arrested.

"He has issues which clearly need to be addressed. He is a high risk of harm to children," he said.

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BREEZE ABOUT TOWN

More often than not football fans get bad press for loutish behaviour and the activities of a minority hooligan element. On Saturday I witnessed the other side of the coin as real and genuine supporters paid tribute to the man who had saved their club – my football club. There were 28,000 of us packed into Molineux Stadium to honour the passing of Sir Jack Hayward, the locally born president, owner and former chairman of Wolverhampton Wanderers Football Club who died last week aged 91.

Those familiar with the turbulent history of Wolves will know that Sir Jack, as he was affectionately known by every Molineux fan, saved the club from extinction and pumped millions of his own hard earned money into building the magnificent stadium which stands proudly close to the city centre. On Saturday 28,000 people, including Black-pool supporters who played their part, were in the “the house that Jack built” to honour the man they loved and behaved impeccably. The great man would have been embarrassed by the ceremony as thousands chanted “Jack Hayward’s Barmy Army”.

Despite his position of respect, he considered himself a man of the people – even writing in the club museum’s visitor’s book “Glad to have to helped”.

It was a perfect day with the stadium bathed in glorious winter sunshine as members of Sir Jack’s family, directors and former players and managers stood on the field to observe a minute’s applause. That planned minute virtually lasted the following 90 too as supporters continued their magnificent and touching tribute throughout Wolves’ 2-0 win. In life we sometimes encounter great people. Sir Jack Hayward was one and we may never see his like again. He stood for everything that was British and was a Second World War pilot. His family made their fortune in business interests in the United States and then The Bahamas, where he made his second home. I had the privilege to meet Sir Jack on a handful of occasions and he always pointed out that he was simply a Wolves supporter. They are moments I shall cherish. Most of all he loved his football club. He had been born within kicking distance of the old stadium.

We all had goosebumps when sounds of Elgar blasted the Molineux air on Saturday, below giant images of the great man with two thumbs up taken during the famous play-off final win which took the club back to the Premiership in 2003. There were of course tears but this was the celebration of the life of a great man and the supporters of Wolverhampton Wanderers Football Club stood as one in the house that Jack built.



Farmer Shirley Lewis, from Billingsley, shot a video in 2008 of a mystery creature



The Asian jungle cat found dead at Richards Castle is the only proof of a big cat in Shropshire



CCTV cameras captured this image of a suspected big cat that was on the prowl in Telford

Is there any truth to all these big cat sightings?

Claims of big cats roaming the area have been made for years. EMMA WALKER investigates

SIGHTINGS of mysterious big cats across Shropshire and Mid Wales have sparked intense debate for years.

There are those who believe that pumas and panthers roam the countryside and others who say that without evidence rumours that they exist in Britain is nothing more than a tall tail.

But there have been 14 reported sightings to Dyfed Powys Police in the past five years, along with the numerous reports in Shropshire.

Figures obtained under the Freedom of Information Act show that residents across the region have been calling police officers over what they believe is a big cat on the prowl.

Prints

From large paw prints in the snow to a lamb mauled by a “panther” and a “puma” in a field, alleged sightings have taken place in Oswestry, Meifod, Telford and Llanidloes.

Big cats have roamed Britain for hundreds of years, according to believers.

Stories of big cats go back to the 1960s and 1970s when it was legal and fashionable to keep exotic animals as pets.

Before the Dangerous Wild Animals Act in 1976, the wealthy could take their lion, tiger or cheetah for a walk around the park without needing a licence.

But the law was changed to protect the public.

While many owners gave their pets to zoos or put them down, rumours started that some people released their animals



This photo of a suspected big cat was taken near Llandrinio in 1994

into the wild where their offspring are thought to still roam to this day.

Over the years each sighting has added a new twist to the mystery of the big cat.

A large black panther-like creature allegedly made a re-appearance in Shropshire last March.

Wendy Lochridge was staring out of her window at her home near Oswestry when she saw the creature.

She said the creature disappeared into some bushes before she managed to get a photograph of it.

She said: “What I saw was massive. It was over four foot long and it had a long tail.”

“I watched it, it stood there under a tree before it went in the bushes. It was a good 300 yards away from me.”

“It was cat-like but with the long tail it was definitely a panther. I have cats

of my own and it was definitely too big for a normal cat.

“I jumped in my car to see if I could take some snaps but it had long gone.”

In 2008, farmer Shirley Lewis, from Tiphose Farm near Billingsley, shot four minutes of remarkable video of a big cat near her home.

The footage appears to show a panther walking through fields, before disappearing behind trees.

Previous sightings of a big cat took place in Telford in 2008 when Sarah Leeder said she came across the animal while she was walking on the trail near Apley Woods.

The body of a dead big cat was also found along the riverbank on the Severn Way in Shrewsbury in 2009 by local paramedic Terry Meagre, although at the time the British Big Cat Society said despite its size it appeared to be a

normal, domestic cat. A big black cat has also been spotted near Stafford Park, Lightmoor, Brosely and Woodside in Telford, as well as stalking along the Silkin Way which runs through the borough.

In November 2006 a big cat sighting by a policeman prompted officers into a late-night search near The White Horse pub in Dawley, Telford. But a search found no trace of it.

However, in February 1989 there was the one and only proven-beyond-doubt case of a big cat in Shropshire.

The body of an Asian jungle cat was found not far from Ludlow and was taken to Ludlow Museum to be identified and examined.

Monster

Some believe this big cat had mated with domestic cats, meaning that there could be some monster moggies roaming around, descended from this jungle cat.

It was noted at the time that a local domestic cat called Jasper was much larger than normal cat size and had the markings of a jungle cat.

Howard Cheese of the museum was to recall years later: “It was found dead near Richards Castle.”

“It was bought into the museum and photographs were taken of it, we measured it, and that sort of thing.”

“The upshot was that the person who found it paid to have taxidermy carried out on it.”

“It was a jungle cat.”

The Ludlow big cat, it turns out, was found by a Mr Evans of Richards Castle.

It was stuffed and later was being kept in a glass case by Dr Karl Shuker, a zoologist in Halesowen who is, according to his website, internationally recognised as a world expert in cryptozoology – the scientific investigation of mystery animals whose existence or identity has yet to be formally ascertained.

The photographs of it were taken by photographer Gareth Thomas, of Ludlow.

WORKING FOR YOU



Glyn Davies MP

Before becoming a politician, I earned my living as a farmer. For the first 20 years of my working life, I was a dairy farmer. So my interest in the milk producing sector is in my personal DNA, as well as being important to the economy of Montgomeryshire and Shropshire.

And dairy farming throughout the UK is in serious trouble. Many of our milk producers are in danger of being forced out of business. Most are producing milk below the cost of production. Some dairy farmers have ‘cost plus’ contracts with supermarkets, but most receive only what the market pays. The cost of producing a litre of milk is around 30p.

Many dairy farmers are being paid just 20p. The underlying reason for this unsustainable situation is rising supply and falling demand across the world, leading to volatility in the global market for dairy products. Trade sanctions against Russia, following her military interventions in Ukraine, have made a difficult position worse. Dairy farmers in some EU states also enjoy cost benefit from more intensive production systems, and some states have mandatory minimum prices paid for milk. EU milk quotas are being lifted next year, and it seems the UK is not as well prepared for this major change as other EU states. We must pressurise supermarkets to adopt a more reasonable approach. Even though some of our supermarkets pay ‘cost plus’ price for the milk on the shelves of their stores, they stack those same shelves with cream, cheese, yoghurt purchased at ridiculously low prices.

Just as ridiculous is the price milk is being sold at in supermarkets. Four pints for 89p is clearly a ‘loss leader’ and leaves no room for profit for anyone.

In the longer run, prospects for the dairy industry are positive. But this may be too late for many.

The Government now plans to consider extending its Groceries Code Adjudicator to include dairy products, before the planned date of 2016. Immediately we can all play a small part by buying nothing except British produce.

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A: Not all cases are suitable for entering into a Clean Break Financial Order, or it may be necessary for the parties to remain financially linked until a clean break can be facilitated. If however you are not entitled to spousal maintenance from your ex-partner, entering into a Clean Break Financial Order is best because once financial settlement has been agreed you need to ensure neither of you has any future financial claim on the other. Without such an Order a financial tie would continue and if one of you had a change in circumstances, for example a large lottery win, your ex-spouse could make a financial claim against you.

If you have agreed terms of a financial settlement between you, or there are no assets to be distributed, it is relatively simple for a Solicitor to prepare a Consent Order in the terms agreed, which will eliminate any financial claim on each other in life and on each other's estates upon death. Once the terms of the Order have been entered and approved by both parties the Order can be signed and submitted to the Court along with a Statement of Information Form containing full details of both your financial positions and a £50 fee. You will not need to attend the Court Hearing. Once the Order has been approved and sealed by the Court it is legally binding and dismisses all future financial claims against each other.

Further information relating to this question is available from Alison Peters, a Senior Solicitor with GHP Legal.

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Trails are a cause for our concern

Give all UK workers a living wage

Vinyl is a big hit with lots of fans

FURTHER to a letter in the Oswestry Chronicle about aeroplane trails, I am writing about the results of my investigations.

I believe we are being sprayed with unknown substances by many aeroplanes daily and nightly, as my photos show.

We were alerted to these sprayings by a friend in Canada, who sent photographs over the internet. So, three months ago, I started to look at this subject.

What I found was that indeed, there were many trails being left by planes which used to disperse into the sky, leaving no trace.

However, now, these trails do not disperse, but spread out over the sky until they are barely visible, and a spray can be seen falling from them. Sometimes, there is an odd smell in the air too. The trails also convert into strange shapes sometimes, and though the Department of Transport suggests these trails are only ice particles or contrails, I do not believe this.

I also believe that the substances sprayed are altering the weather as when I have been watching them during a day, the weather may start out with rain clouds but once the trails have gone over, the normal clouds disperse and the sky becomes sunny.

Please see the photos, and investigate yourselves. Isn't this news which people ought to know about?

JANET NORWOOD
Whittington

Dark skies dangerous

DUE to the street lights being switched off, having to walk or cycle home after a late shift is very dangerous, unnerving and for a female you feel very isolated.

As for saving the taxpayers money I would be very interested in hearing from anyone who has had a reduction in their council tax due to the street lights being switched off in their area. Don't forget part of our payment goes towards paying for street lights.

Are we still getting value for money?

M JONES
Wem

AS a taxpayer I am really fed up with the benefit scroungers favoured by George Osborne.

Every business that does not pay a living wage is, and will continue to be subsidised by our taxes, as long as Boy George keeps the minimum wage below the living wage – not forgetting his acceptance of zero hour slavery.

He decries the deficit and insists on the need for austerity while seeing the only answer as a speedy return to the situation which led to the problem in the first place – excessive consumer credit, purchases and debt, fed by

banks given free reign with ineffective regulation and no direct consequences for their willingness to screw the rest of us.

But what else can you expect from a Chancellor who will not admit that the Treasury has acted illegally to cover up its own discrimination against taxpayers, as with their denial of lawful compensation for Equitable Life victims?

There appears to be an official policy to keep denying that fact until all the Equitable Life victims have died.

So how are the Conservatives

encouraging British values by so evidently ignoring compassion, generosity, honesty, humility, morality and respect, as opposed to following hypocrisy, self-righteousness, creating fear, encouraging hatred and blaming scapegoats?

They could start by insisting on a living wage as a minimum for all workers, which will certainly help the deficit, reduce austerity and the need to increase taxes, and cheer up millions of plebs.

MALCOLM MACINTYRE-READ
Much Wenlock

Relaxing canal canoe trip is enjoyed



Written on the back of this undated postcard, which was loaned by collector Sally Anne Richards, is: "Charlie and Cousin Sam in the canoe on the canal at Welshpool." The image may have been taken in the 1930s.

Earth has not been abandoned

HOW could a loving God allow natural disasters like earthquakes to wreak suffering and death on a massive scale?

One author suggested: "When man told God to shove off, He partly honoured our request, nature began to revolt. The Earth was cursed, genetic breakdown and disease began. Pain and death became part of human experience."

It was paradise until man let Satan control him, now look at the mess. This is inevitable when God removes His protection.

God hasn't abandoned planet Earth, the real Father Christmas will bring peace and restoration to this broken world.

RON JONES
St Martins

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

Readers' Letters,
Oswestry Chronicle,
Ketley,
Telford, TF1 5HU

EMAIL

letters@oswestry
chronicle.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Farage remains in media's firing line

THE national press continues with its character assassination of Nigel Farage and all things Ukup.

We are now told that any electoral success he has in the next election will result in the bottom falling out of the stock market. It has been made abundantly clear that the national press, the BBC, the Lords and all three of our major political parties will not tolerate a politician/party who listens to what the electorate wants and proposes to do something about it. Fancy someone wanting to re-introduce democracy to British politics after 40 years of European dictatorship.

BOB WYDELL
Oswestry

Disruption is in store for town

I NOTICED that Aldi placed the public notice for the planning application to build another supermarket on Salop Road, Oswestry, on the side of the road where the public cannot see it without standing on a sloping grass verge inches from fast moving traffic.

I am sure Aldi will now say they have 100 per cent public support when in fact few people know the old toll house and oak tree are about to be demolished, the old people's home permanently blighted by a noisy supermarket and the Salop Road traffic further increased.

There are enough supermarkets in Oswestry and local shops will suffer.

PETER MORRIS
Oswestry

Broadband bid goes on

THE problem of rural broadband connectivity is nowhere near resolution.

Let us hope that there will be a more open approach to these matters in 2015 and that Shropshire Council will not take the easy option of condemning rural homes and businesses to sub-standard and expensive satellite broadband.

We will be asking county councillors and general election candidates what their intentions are to improve rural connectivity.

PATRICK COSGROVE
Shropshire and
Marches Campaign for
Better Broadband in
Rural Areas

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Craft fairs to be held at town hall

THREE craft fairs will be held in Welshpool Town Hall.

The events will give people the chance to buy or sell a range of arts and crafts. They will take place at on March 14, April 18 and May 16 between 9am and 4pm.

Robert Robinson, town clerk, said: "These will provide the opportunity for independent local craft workers and artists to offer a wide range of arts and crafts for sale."

"With free admission for visitors, this also gives you a chance to purchase original and unique work directly from local artisans."

"The stalls will be allocated on a first come first served basis with the cost of a stall held at £10 each."

People can call Mr Robinson on (01938) 553142.

Talk enjoyed by group members

MEMBERS of Welshpool & District 3A were given a slide talk by group chairman Matt Mathieson at their latest meeting.

Group member Ruthie Lockyer said: "He told the fascinating story of the spread of the Roman Empire leading up to Justinian, the Byzantine Emperor and his life." The group's next meeting takes place on February 3, at Church House, Church Bank, Welshpool. Doors open 9.45am for a 10.30am start. More information about the group can be found at www.welshpool-anddistrict3a.org.uk

Footfall group looking to continue its work in town

Report by Sue Austin

A COMMUNITY group that has brought art into the heart of Oswestry is on the look-out for new members.

The Footfall partnership commissioned its first project in 2011 and has gone on to provide three large murals for Oswestry to enjoy and numerous temporary art exhibitions in empty shops and shop windows.

It's aim is to 'add creativity to empty spaces' - an ethos that has led to the George Pub sporting artistic murals of people partying on its outside walls and two large murals showing Oswestry's link with the railways created in the New Street area.

Africa bikes plea issued

AN appeal has been made for people to donate old bikes which can be sent to Africa.

Oswestry Borderland Rotary Club is collecting used bicycles to send to schools in Gambia, where the children may have to walk up to ten miles before they start their lessons.

Each bike collected needs a donation of £10 to help transport it, so the club is also asking for donations towards these costs.

Those behind the local effort for the Bikes4Africa campaign hope if families have had new bikes at Christmas they may be in a position to hand over older models.

Judy Bristol, who is organising the collection for Oswestry Borderland Rotary Club, said: "The Bikes4Africa scheme reconditions used bikes and transports them to African schools where they are loaned to needy students. When the child leaves school the bikes are refurbished locally and passed on to another child."

To donate a bike or money, contact Judy Bristol on 07779 648665.

Amy Gregory, from the Marches School, one of those involved in the partnership and a Footfall committee member, said: "Footfall's displays have been vibrantly presented with the aim to make an empty space interesting and eye-catching. Members have also contributed to the Portas Bid and Oswestry's 2020 Plan."

"As the name suggests, the organisations aim to encourage more footfall in the town, leading to increased trade and a more vibrant atmosphere. Footfall gains the necessary permissions to use empty shops to display exhibitions produced by students at local schools and colleges and community groups."

"At the moment we are using the former Cafe Barrista premises in Willow Street to display artwork from Oswestry's primary and secondary schools and Walford and North Shropshire College."

"Erica Morgan, Footfall secretary added: "Footfall started with the aim of increasing footfall within Oswestry during tough economic times, and has developed from there. We are looking to link with other local groups to help provide a stronger collective voice."

More details are on the Footfall website, www.footfall.co.uk/oswestry



Footfall's Amy Gregory, Lucy Evans and Erica Morgan look at one of the murals

Victims of crime to have say in penalty

VICTIMS of minor assaults, anti-social behaviour and low value thefts will be given a say in how offenders are punished, the police force which serves the Welshpool area has said.

Plans for "adult community resolution" have been introduced by Dyfed-Powys Police. Types of offences where the resolution can be used include low-level criminal damage, low value theft, minor assaults without injury and anti-social behaviour.

Victims will be given the option to choose from a list of out of court punishments, while police will also be allowed to use their professional judgement to deal with offenders.

As part of the scheme the victim must agree to deal with the offence in that manner and the offender must admit the offence and agree to participate in the process. Resolutions can include the offender being given advice about their behaviour, apologising to the victim, or possibly making some form of reparation, like repairing or paying for any damage done.

Chief Inspector Peter Westlake insisted that the system would only be used when it is in the public interest.

Community resolutions have previously been used in youth justice in Dyfed-Powys.

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MP will move to historic property

FORMER Foreign Secretary William Hague MP is to move to Mid Wales with his wife Ffion.

The couple have bought Cyfrondd Hall, which is in the countryside between Welshpool and Llanfair Caereinion and was on the market for £2.5 million.

Montgomeryshire MP Glyn Davies welcomed the news and said the couple would feel very much at home in the area.

Mrs Hague's father was born in Montgomeryshire and the MP was Welsh Secretary in the 1990s.

Mr Hague, now Leader of the House and MP for Richmond in North Yorkshire, is stepping down from Parliament at the next election. He is to concentrate on his writing.

A spokeswoman for the couple said: "Mr Hague has now purchased a home in Wales and is very much looking forward to moving there with Ffion, who is of course Welsh herself. They are very fond of Wales."

She said that the couple would be keeping a house in Yorkshre.

Mr Davies said: "I'm really pleased that William and Ffion have decided to set up their family home in Montgomeryshire."

"Ffion's father was a Montgomeryshire man so she has family roots here, and William is hugely popular throughout Wales," Mr Davies added.

Drilling protestors vow to battle plan 'until the end'

CAMPAIGNERS against gas drilling plans near St Martins say they will continue to battle against the proposal "right until the end".

A decision on plans to operate a borehole for coal bed methane extraction on a site in Dudleston has been delayed again.

The controversial proposals put forward by Dart Energy had been due to be discussed to gather more information after councillors indicated they intended to refuse planning permission.

A firm date for discussion has not yet been set, but talks will take place at a future meeting of the north planning committee.

Chris Hesketh, leader of campaign group Frack Free Dudleston, said: "It is quite positive in some ways, because the applicant Dart Energy might give some more information and we always need time to look at that before it going straight to committee.

"The council deferred the decision in October because they needed more information about noise levels and pollution, but the energy company has basically said it doesn't need to provide anything else.

"I fully support the letter from the council asking for more information – it is entirely reasonable to ask for more detail.

"But it doesn't look like Dart is actually doing anything to reduce its impact."

By Amy Downward

The energy firm released a letter last week claiming it had provided enough information that there would be no reason to refuse the plans.

But despite the ongoing delay in a final decision, Mr Hesketh said the group would continue to campaign against the plans.

He said: "We will campaign right until the end.

"The community around here is very active and very united.

"There are a number of reasons why we should believe that this will get turned down.

"I don't count my chickens, there have been many twists and turns in this process, but I refuse to be complacent.

"But not providing more information to make this a socially and environmentally acceptable scheme, Dart isn't doing itself any favours."

Youngsters meet football star Joe



The young footballers met Liverpool and Wales ace Joe Allen during their training session

VAUXHALL dealer Arthurs of Oswestry has demonstrated its commitment to grass roots football through its sponsorship of Oswestry Boys and Girls Club under 9s team.

The sponsorship, through the Vauxhall youth programme, has not only included a brand new team kit, but a trip to Wrexham for a training day run by Liverpool FC youth academy coaches.

The youngsters were clearly thrilled when Joe Allen, Liverpool and Wales international midfielder, made a special surprise guest appearance. The soccer star presented the team with their new kit

Anthony Jones who works for Arthurs and is one of the Oswestry club's coaches said: "We hope this is the starting point of an exciting new partnership between Arthurs and the club.

"I am delighted to say that I have been nominated a dedicated member of staff as our Vauxhall Football Champion who will work closely with the local club."

Meanwhile a second Vauxhall award has been achieved by Arthurs. The latest success is a financial recognition from Vauxhall's regional management which covers a vast swathe of the country from Cumbria to Merseyside, Staffordshire, Shropshire, Cheshire and the whole of North Wales.

The award is made annually to the Vauxhall dealer who excels across the business. The recognition comes on top of Arthurs' recent award when they were named as the top performing Vauxhall dealer in the country for customer satisfaction.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Alert sparked by motorist report

YOUNGSTERS in Oswestry are being urged to be vigilant after reports a motorist was acting suspiciously near school students walking home.

The warning has come from the Marches School who said a report had been made of a man in a white van acting suspiciously.

School staff urged parents to discuss with their child the importance of following the normal routines on the way home.

Senior deputy headteacher Alison Pearson said: "We issued an email to all our parents/carers on Wednesday last week, after being alerted by a parent. By notifying parents/carers and communicating this information, we are supporting them to ensure their children remain vigilant at all times."

Bead workshops for youngsters

A YOUNG person's jewellery-making club will be held on the fourth Saturday of every month at the Oswestry Bead Workshop.

The club for five to 16-year-olds runs from 1pm to 3pm at the workshop, 6a, Second Floor, 13 Church Street. Children can choose from a huge selection of colourful beads to create jewellery, and get to take home anything they make.

There is a maximum of eight per workshop and each session costs £10 per person. Places must be paid for in advance. Book online at www.theoswestrybeadworkshop.co.uk

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Young farmers enjoy success

MEMBERS of a young farmers club are celebrating the end of a successful year which saw it pick up a number of awards.

For the 10th year in succession Llanfair Caereinion Young Farmers Club won the YFC County Eisteddfod, winning all three sections – stage, literature and craft. The Eisteddfod chair was won by Gwenllian Alexander for her short story.

Recently club member Angharad Lewis won the Hymn Singing Solo in the All Wales YFC Eisteddfod.

Geraint Jones, club chairman, expressed his thanks to all involved.

He said the club was going from strength to strength thanks to great support.

Quiz event raises cash for charity

A CHEQUE for more than £300 has been donated to a popular charity thanks to a fundraising event in a village hall.

A total of £351 was raised at the event with the money going to the Guide Dogs for the Blind charity.

The charity money was raised thanks to a quiz night at Marton Village Hall near Welshpool.

The money has been presented to representatives from the Guide Dogs for the Blind charity.

It was presented to Chris Gwilt-Hoofe and Tony Hoofe, from Montgomery, on behalf of the charity.

Red Arrows painting will bring air show fund boost

By Andrew Morris

FLYING through the air in classic formation, this dramatic picture of the Red Arrows makes a fitting tribute to a man who was devoted to aviation.

The planes are seen flying over Mid Wales Airport in Welshpool and the home of Bob Jones, who founded the site in 1990 on land near his farm, and who later set up the Welshpool Air Show.

Mr Jones was tragically killed in a plane crash in 2012, and the air show was later renamed in his honour. It has grown into one of the biggest small air shows in the region, featuring the likes of the Spitfire, the Hurricane and the Vulcan, despite being held on the same day as the Cosford Air Show.

Last year's event attracted around 8,000 visitors.

Mr Jones's son, David, commissioned Oswestry-based artist David Walker to create this image of the airport and Mr Jones's home. Prints have gone on sale, and Mr Walker is donating some of the proceeds to this year's show, which takes place in June.

"I have been there for the past four years and always enjoyed it," he said. "It has a nice atmosphere and I just thought it would be nice to do something to support the event."

Mr Walker added: "It was after last year's event that a visitor called in to see my work and it turned out to be Bob Jones's son who then commissioned a painting of the airfield and airport."

Mr Walker was given a number of images to work with, and he combined them into the finished oil painting.

It took Mr Walker around 70 hours to create the artwork, working over a number of weeks.



David Walker's painting of the Red Arrows flying over Welshpool Airport

Ramblers to take a walk at waterway

DAVE Evans will lead the Welshpool Ramblers on a circular walk of about seven miles from Welshpool on Sunday.

The route will follow the Montgomery Canal to Butington Bridge before ascending to Yr Allt, and Crowther's Coppice on a variety of paths and tracks.

The canal will be regained at the Abbey Bridge for the return to Welshpool.

People should meet at 9.30am in the upper part of Church Street car park.

All are welcome but no dogs on the walk are allowed.

Further information can be obtained on (01938) 590307.

Advance notice is given for the walk on February 8, scheduled for the Dolanog area.

With no walk programmed for January 11, Van Evans invited members of Welshpool Ramblers to join her on an informal 'canal and river' walk from Arddleen.

This attracted seven walkers on what was to be a 10-mile circuit following the Montgomery Canal to the Llandrinio road to access Offa's Dyke Path which was followed south east to Derwas Bridge to cross New Cut to then closely follow the River Severn to Pool Quay.

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Council agrees to rise in precept

PARISH councillors have hit out at Shropshire Council after a grant cut forced them to agree a rise in their precept.

Weston Rhyn Parish Council agreed a council tax increase of 3.7 per cent at its latest meeting, meaning villagers will now pay £25.50 a year - an increase of 87p per household.

Ralph Cooper, chairman of the parish council, criticised Shropshire Council's failure to hand over the Council Tax Support Grant, leaving a funding shortfall of £1,800.

He said the move had forced his council to increase their precept.

Councillors voted unanimously to agree the rise. Shropshire Council said it hoped removing the Council Tax Support Grant would save it £511,000.

Appeal looking for organisers

WITH Marie Curie's annual Great Daffodil Appeal just a few months away, the charity is looking for volunteer collection organisers to co-ordinate street and supermarket collections across Oswestry.

Volunteers will be sent collection cans and other materials.

Hosts will meet and greet collectors before their collections begin and take away materials and money to be counted and paid in at the bank.

To find out more information about how to help the charity call (01332) 204221.

Bertie the friendly pony is ready for a real life rider

By Andrew Morris

MEET Bertie – a young pony ready to move on from being ridden by a pink teddy bear.

Totem Horses, a not-for-profit rescue centre, based in Llanfechain, near Oswestry, wants an experienced home with a small lightweight rider for the three-year-old Welsh type pony.

The only jockey the centre currently has small enough for Bertie is a cuddly toy, which is strapped to his back to allow him to practise. The pony, who is described as friendly and curious, came to the charity from a breeder who was going to shoot him and several other colts as they were not prepared to meet the cost of having him gelded.

Majority of estate is sold

MORE than 450 acres of a £3 million agricultural and sporting estate has been sold.

The Dolanog Estate near Welshpool included 550.94 acres of land with shooting rights over a further 478 acres, a principal farmhouse and farmstead, a further farm with house, cottage and traditional buildings, established high bird game shoot and a hydroelectric scheme. It was offered with a guide price of £3 million for the whole estate. Sarah Reece, associate with Shrewsbury based agents Berrys, who handled the sale, said: "The Dolanog Estate is situated in the picturesque Vyrnwy Valley spreading high on to the hills in the heart of Mid Wales and not surprisingly we had a huge amount of interest with potential buyers travelling from far afield to view."

Mrs Reece said that after several months of negotiations the majority of the land has now been sold, including 450 acres of pasture land and woodland on the estate, part with vacant possession and part subject to tenancy.

Before arriving at Totem two years ago, Bertie, who is a grey, had received no handling and was very nervous around people, the group said.

However, with consistent and gentle attention he has built up his confidence and is now ready to go to a new home where he can start his career as a riding or driving pony.

Holly Higginbottom, rehoming volunteer, said: "Bertie is a very sweet natured little pony who is good and quiet to handle and is eager to please and very honest, especially for his age."

"Once he knows you he is good to catch and he will happily stand and be groomed by an adult or child."

Miss Higginbottom added: "To get him ready for his career as a riding or driving pony, Bertie has been long-reined and happily wears a bridle with a snaffle bit and he is also used to wearing a saddle."

"But since he is only 11 hands high and we don't have a small rider, Bertie has only been ridden thus far by 'Riding Teddy' who is a decent weight and wobbles a lot but causes the pony no concern."

To register an interest in Bertie, call 07769 176800.



Bertie the pony has only been ridden by a soft toy so far

MPs will keep their seats say bookies

THE political landscape could remain unchanged in Shropshire and Mid Wales for the next five years – that's if the bookies are to be believed.

All five Shropshire MPs, and Montgomeryshire MP Glyn Davies, are odds on with the bookies to retain their seats following May's General Election.

With odds of 1/100 North Shropshire MP Owen Paterson looks nailed on to sail through unscathed.

Mr Davies may have a tussle on his hands with Liberal Democrat Jane Dodds, who Paddy Power have made 9/4 to be victorious.

Mr Davies said: "I don't think I have ever been odds-on to win anything before – indeed I was 8/1 when I won the seat five years ago and my wife cashed in by having £50 on me to win."

"I always do my very best in elections, some I have won, some I have lost but I will always try to do my utmost. It is nice to hear the bookies have me down as favourite at the moment and I will do all I can to prove them correct, but a lot can happen in four months and I won't be taking anything for granted."

Mr Paterson is defending a seat held by the Conservatives since it was created in 1832. He said: "I have never been complacent ever since winning by a narrow margin in 1997."

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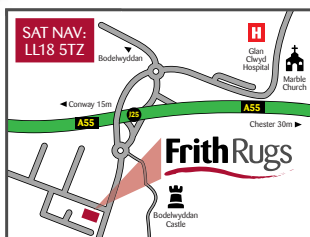
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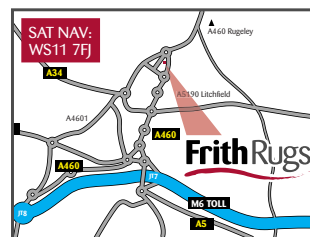
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THE Townhouse Oswestry opened its doors during December and has been receiving some fantastic reviews.

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a restaurant and lively champagne cocktail bar, oozing style and sophistication, the property also boasts two private function rooms equally as elegant and stylish, offering a variety of choice for each and everyone's individual tastes.

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about restaurants. Currently the restaurant is offering two courses for just £10 for lunch throughout January, and is building up to a busy few months of events. On February 14 let the Townhouse take care of you and the one you love with four courses and Valentines cocktail for just £45.

They are also going that extra mile and offering bespoke flower and wine packages to make the evening extra special. For more information or further details on exciting forthcoming events, contact 01691 659499.



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'I'M 100% BETTER' Miruji has helped me to lose more than five stone

"Five years of suffering with ME, I'm feeling 100% better"

FOR bubbly ski instructor and former county table tennis star Wendy Payton, the Miruji chair has been a passport back to normal life after living for almost half a decade with debilitating M.E.

She has even been able to go back to work again, as a nursery assistant in Shrewsbury.

Wendy's problems started when her 18-year marriage failed in 2008 and she was left to struggle on alone with four children.

"I was at work one day in Telford and I found I couldn't walk up the ski slope," she said.



Wendy Payton

"I became a recluse for four years and stayed indoors. I lived on benefits and shut myself away. I did things on auto-pilot, like a robot. I didn't like looking in the mirror. I thought: 'who's that person?' If I had to do anything I was exhausted. After doing the housework I would have to spend the rest of the day in bed."

Wendy, 47, who used to play table tennis for Shropshire, was diagnosed with chronic fatigue syndrome, also known as myalgic encephalomyelitis (ME) three years ago.

"I was told not to try to do everything all at once," she said. Slowing down and feeling awful made Wendy reach for food, to take her mind off things.

"I went from a size 14 to a size 18," she said. "I comfort ate chocolate most days. I ate lots of takeaways as I didn't fancy cooking. I always made sure the kids ate properly. I looked after them but neglected myself." Wendy contacted Miruji after seeing an advertisement for the Sit and Slim trial.

"I was quite sceptical at first. I thought it was all brain-washing. I came in and did the sessions in the chair but I wasn't paying full attention. Then I noticed there were little triggers that made me cry as I was listening. Something kick-started me. I was in floods of tears. You are just taking in things a little bit at a time and then you realise you are beginning to see results. I also enjoy the fact that it is a bit of me time. For a stressed mum, it is time where I can just switch off and it helps things go in."

Wendy was particularly moved by a section of the audio that talks about a branch in the road – you can either choose one path, a fitter, healthier you, or keep getting bigger over the years until you lose all sense of self-worth and take up two seats on an aeroplane. "I thought at the end of the day, you can do anything if you really put your mind to it," she said. "It motivated me to sort my life out."

Wendy committed to doing 90 minutes a week in the chair. "I suddenly saw the things that I had let take over my life and how that affected the people around me," she said.

Now Wendy's children, aged 18, 16, 13 and 11 cannot believe the change in their mum. She has slimmed down to a size 14 and is brimming with energy and enthusiasm. She even took all of her children away on holiday to Tunisia by herself.

"I was absolutely chuffed," she said. "I would never have thought I could cope before. We hadn't been on holiday for years. They all absolutely loved it. I came back with loads of confidence, energy and a suntan, having spent quality time with my kids. Before, I tended to push them away. They love the new me. They're really proud."

The icing on the cake was being offered a job, having previously been knocked back many times at interviews.

"I have a different attitude now," she said. "I'm much more positive about life. I wake up early in the morning. Before I would wake up and want to crawl back under the bedclothes. I've got loads of energy, I'm up late at night. I can walk miles with the dogs." Wendy also feels her experience at Miruji has helped her protect her



Welcome to the beach at the relaxing health spa



Relax and de-stress at Miruji in Shrewsbury

The story of my first experience with Miruji

Leading a stressed-out busy life-style seems to be part and parcel of 21st-century life. It is difficult enough to make time for all the mundane tasks such as housework and food shopping never mind for proper relaxation and 'me time'.

So when a friend started talking about Miruji in Shrewsbury I was keen to give it a go. Personally, when she started telling me about the indoor beach, the audio therapy and the revolutionary massage chairs I was more than a little sceptical.

It took me a few weeks to get my skates on and find the time to go but when I arrived I was seriously pleasantly surprised.

I was greeted by smiling, friendly staff when I arrived at the Miruji reception which actually looks like much more like a tropical beach bar. I felt like I should be ordering a pina colada rather than getting ready for an hour's worth of de-stressing. At that point I would have gladly taken the cocktail but by the time I came to leave an hour later I knew that the spa treatment had done me far more good than any alcoholic tipple.

I was ushered on to the beach where I self-consciously settled myself on a sun lounger. The light box gave off beautiful beams of sunshine and relaxation as I settled back and shut my eyes feeling the warmth of the 'sun' on my face. Heaven! No wonder sufferers with SAD (Seasonal Affective Disorder) benefit so much from sitting under a light box for half an hour a week during the cold, dark winter.

Before long I was taken to the well-being massage chair which uses a combination of relaxing massage and NLP (Neuro-Linguistic Programming) to promote a positive mindset. I was settled into the large comfortable chair and plugged in to a general 'sit and de-stress' audio.

My first reaction was that the sensation of the chair 'massaging' my back and legs was somewhat odd but after the first few minutes I was literally transported to planet bliss.

After 40 minutes of pummelling and de-knotting, I simply couldn't get enough of it. The audio seemed to be playing deep in my distant sub-consciousness as I drifted along on a cloud of pure relaxation.

All too soon my time was up and despite wanting to stay in the chair and 'go round again' I made a move to go home.

The difference in how I felt when I left was amazing. I felt so much more relaxed, all my stress seemed to be lifted from my shoulders and to say that I went home in a great mood was an understatement.

The Miruji experience has left me completely reorganising my life. I feel so much more positive and now I make time for relaxation and de-stressing.

How did I manage my life before I started popping along to Miruji every week? Even my friends and family comment on how much more relaxed and happier I am. For one hour a week I do something just for me.

If Angie Robinson's husband Tom ever wins the lottery, he says he wants to invest it all in Miruji.

Seventy-two year-old Angie, from Roden, was a dress size 32 and barely able to leave the house.

"If I went out I would usually fall over and it would take quite a few people to get me on my feet again," she said. "It was just embarrassing so I stopped going out."

Now, with the help of the Sit and Slim programme, she has lost six and a half stone and is a healthier size 24-26 and far more agile.

It is still a far cry from the eight stone underwear model of her youth, when she cycled 26 miles a day to work, but Angie says she is happier and more mobile than she has been for many years.

"I'm so overwhelmed with the chair; it's unreal. I've been able to walk better, go upstairs better. I was a complete mess: I was getting to be like a hermit. I didn't want to go anywhere. "My husband Tom said he's noticed such a difference in my wellbeing. My whole personality has changed, I'm more relaxed. I had a job to keep up with him when we're walking. Now it's the other way around. He's absolutely delighted for me."

The weight piled on after Angie retired at 58, when health problems restricted her activity; she just kept on getting bigger and bigger: "I'd always been plumpish but so active that it didn't matter. Then suddenly I was immobile and bored – and what do you do? Sit around eating toast with loads of butter."

She has macular degenerative disease, emphysema, sciatica and short-term memory loss, following an accident when she slipped and hit her head on concrete. It was when she was diagnosed with Type 2 diabetes

on top of her other problems, that she decided to try Miruji.

She said: "My health problems can be very stressful; I've found listening to the audios has made me so much more positive. I only went out of curiosity to begin with and paid my £10 fee. I thought it was absolutely fantastic. I'm more agile now because I've lost in total six and a half stone, although some of that was before I came to Miruji. I've done so many diets, it's unreal but I never stick to them. I go back to my old ways and put more on."

"I think what Sit and Slim does is work on your subconscious so you are motivated to stick to it. It made me realise nobody else was going to do it for me. Only I can make that decision to eat sensibly – to go down the right road, not eat loads of sweets and all the naughty things. In the morning I just have porridge, a sandwich at midday and a healthy meal and vegetables at night. The quantity has gone down. Before, my goodness me, I'd have fry-ups and loads of cakes and biscuits all day long."

Now, I might still have a bacon sandwich but I'll grill it."

Angie did approach her GP to ask about weight-loss surgery but there were concerns about her age – and a lack of funding for the procedure in Shropshire.

She is so proud that she has achieved such sustained weight-loss for herself and is determined to continue: "I love it. I can't wait – I look forward to 'my therapy'. It's so relaxing. I can't describe to anyone how much it's made me feel in myself, just well-being. I have sciatica and - touch wood – that's gone too, with the massage. I feel rejuvenated, more like 27 than 72. Now I have no negativity whatsoever. People need to give it a chance."

"Alan and his team are grand – he's helping so many people and good luck to him."



Angela Robinson

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Centre will help dementia care

A NEW lounge facility designed to mimic the home environment as much as possible and assist the care of patients with dementia has been opened in Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital.

Known as the Poppy Lounge, the facility has been mainly funded by a donation from The Shropshire Masons.

The Poppy Lounge includes flame effect fire and mantelpiece, dimmer lights and lamps, old photographs, and memory boxes, all of which have been included to help people who have dementia while they are in a hospital environment. Newgate Clocks donated large faced clocks for the room and Dr Shu Ho, ward consultant, contributed to the cost of the furniture.

Walking soccer sessions staged

WALKING football sessions are being offered at The Venue, near Oswestry, on Mondays from 12.30pm to 2pm.

The soccer sessions are open to all but are particularly aimed at those aged over 50.

Games are played on an artificial pitch at The Venue, home of The New Saints FC.

Participants are asked to wear suitable footwear and bring a drink.

Each session costs £2.50.

For more information about the sessions contact Shelly McGlinchey on 07565 529134

Stunning image of hillfort impresses archaeologists

Report by Pam Kingsley

OSWESTRY'S Iron Age hillfort is a stunning monument at any time of the year, but in winter, when the snow falls, the details of the earth-works can be seen even better.

This amazing image of the hillfort has been chosen by archaeology business DigVentures as the best examples of snow-covered hillforts across the UK.

Maiya Pina-Dacier, community manager at DigVentures, said: "There are around 3,300 of these defended enclosures in Britain, and from the ground, they're a pretty impressive sight. But cover them in snow and take a picture from the air and they'll probably leave you as breathless as a climb to the top."

Aid group is given packs

A **FOODBANK** has been given 25 "winter warmer" packs to hand out.

Liberty Gas, which works with Shropshire Towns and Rural Housing (STAR), has donated the packs to the Oswestry Foodbank.

Each pack contains a variety of items, which include tinned food, chocolate biscuits and porridge oats.

Caroline Morris, financial inclusion manager at Shropshire Towns and Rural Housing, said: "We are always looking for ways to support our tenants and it's great that our partners are sharing in these values. The winter warmer packs Liberty are providing will help some of our vulnerable tenants through the cold weeks ahead."

The Oswestry Foodbank provides an invaluable service to local people in need and are staffed entirely by local and friendly volunteers.

Liberty Gas is responsible for handling heating and repairs and servicing on behalf of STAR Housing.

The picture of Old Oswestry hillfort, which was taken in February last year, was picked as the best example of a snow-covered hillfort by Mrs Pina-Dacier.

She said: "Old Oswestry is one of Britain's most impressive early Iron Age hillforts."

"Covering 40 mighty acres, its inhabitants would have kept warm in stone-kerbed roundhouses. Excavations also uncovered furrowed pottery imported from Wiltshire area and salt containers from Cheshire, indicating that they traded with, relatively, distant neighbours."

Castle Bank, near Llandrindod Wells in Mid Wales, was also included in the top 10 and its unusual shape was highlighted by the fallen snow. The stone-built defensive bank follows the topography of the hilltop.

Campaigners are battling to have the views from and to the hillfort in Oswestry retained. They are worried about plans to build houses in the shadow of the ancient monument.

The homes have been put forward as potential development opportunities in Shropshire Council SAMDev document which will dictate where housing can be built in the future.



Old Oswestry Iron Age hillfort looks stunning covered in snow

Charity is calling on backing of public

HOPE House Children's Hospice is asking its supporters to challenge themselves for the charity over the coming months.

The hospice, based at Morda near Oswestry, is linking up with a series of 12 key sporting events across Shropshire, Cheshire, Mid and North Wales during 2015.

The events range from triathlons and cycle rides to half marathons, marathons and 10 kilometre races.

Spokeswoman at Hope House Children's Hospice Vanessa Thomas said: "At each of our named events we will be taking along a 'Cheer Station' to shout you on."

"There will also be extras for our competitors such as running vests, sports massages and refreshments."

"All you need to do is pledge to raise a minimum amount for our charity and enter via us." The full list of events will be announced soon and organisers say it will include challenges such as Shrewsbury Triathlon, the Lake Vyrnwy Half Marathon, the Shrewsbury Half Marathon and many more.

To register interest in taking part, people should email Vanessa@hopehouse.org.uk for Shropshire and Powys events, Eluned@tygobaith.org.uk for North Wales events or Hannah.Penney@hopehouse.org.uk for Cheshire and Wrexham area events.

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her outstanding performance over the past year in Oswestry.

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Shop Manager Sally Roberts

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A privately owned family run company A C Roof Trusses Limited has operated from their site in Welshpool, Powys, for over 33 years.

With customers nationwide ranging from individual self-builders to large construction companies all of who receive the same high-quality product, attention to detail and customer satisfaction.

We pride ourselves on supplying quality items designed and manufactured to meet your individual needs.

To complement the design service our package includes full working drawings and design calculations to meet local authority requirements.

The company is continually expanding and over the last 15 years have been producing Timber Frame to complement both our Roof Truss and Floor Joist manufacture.

Our design team have a combined 60 years experience in the design of roof trusses, engineered floor and/or timber frame. With experience in on-site construction together with software development skills these assets assist us in finding practical solutions for more complex structures. We are fully com-



AC Roof Trusses Limited offers a complete one-stop service

mitted to becoming more environmentally friendly and as such all timber we use comes from managed coniferous forests, mainly in Scandinavia, which is a sustainable resource with generally more trees planted than cut down each year.

A C Roof Trusses Limited, as well as all our timber suppliers, are PEFC certified.

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Everything that is manufactured by A C Roof Trusses Ltd is designed in accordance with the recommendations of BS5268-2/3, BS6399-1/2/3 and produced to BS EN 14250:2010.

With a fleet of five delivery vehicles ranging from a 28 tonne tractor unit with two step-frame trailers to a pick-up, this enables us to deliver to the most difficult of sites.

Success is bringing further expansion

TURTLE Covers Ltd manufacture tailored protective seat covers for utility and commercial vehicles. Despite the recent recession they have been able to grow quickly due to the quality of their locally made products and their affordable pricing. In the last two years their work-force has grown from three staff to 19 and recruiting for more people to add to their team is under way.

Previously based in Bank Top Industrial Estate, St Martins, their rate of growth has meant that a move to a larger factory was necessary and Unit 8A Gledrid Industrial Park is their new home.

Capacity

The increase in sales and capacity has been helped by the Government's Growth Accelerator scheme with funding assistance provided by the Green Bridge Programme managed for the West Midlands by Birmingham City Council.

Based next to Farm & Pet Place in Gledrid, their new factory will allow Turtle Covers to expand their product range to Sports Utility Vehicles and Crossovers and later other cars.

Current sales have been driven by Business to Business supply to dealers in the UK and Europe alongside successful ecommerce outlets such as



Turtle Covers Ltd manufactures seat covers for a whole range of vehicles

their easy to use website www.turtlecovers.co.uk.

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Custom-fit covers avoid the irrita-

tion of loose-fitting generic covers that often don't stay on the seats properly.

The firm's Managing Director, Marc Williams, said: "Being able to manufacture our custom-fit covers competitively in the UK with a skilled local workforce is very rewarding and our rate of growth has been both surprising and exciting."

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MEAT MAN CELEBRATES 4TH BIRTHDAY

Oswestry's MEAT MAN retail/catering butcher is celebrating its 4th year next month, owners Phil and Tom Brown are very proud of their 5 star food hygiene and the following accreditations, STS Approval (which means they can serve Hospitals and Schools as they meet the highest standard required) HACCP approved premises (which means they have full documented procedure for traceability throughout the food chain) UK Cutting Plant EC approval number 079 (which means they meet all the hygiene, traceability of products, country of origin of meat and cleaning schedules, and testing of meats).

The business employs 15 local people which includes 3 master butchers, the meat is cut fresh every day from 5am on the premises in willow street, serving over 100 catering business and 5 supermarkets and having a home delivery service in north wales, it allows the firm to buy in large amounts and this saving is passed onto our customers. From that commitment to sell "Quality Meat at the Right Price" the business has now grown to sales in excess of 1.6 million per year and growing.

We use some of the same suppliers as other local butchers, Stanley Jones of Rhos, ABP Shrewsbury, ABP Ellsmere, The Vale of Clwyd fresh lamb, Free Range Eggs from Shrewsbury, British Bacon, Tican.

We have supported a number of local charities and help sponsor local individuals over the years including Oswestry Stroke Club, Macmillan Nurse, The Isabel Lotty Fund, The Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital, Woodside School, Weston Rhyn School, The Boys Club, The Scouts, The Church Dinner Club, The Homeless Christmas Dinner, Local Fishing Club, Seven Hospice, Hope House, Local School BBQ's to raise money we have given hundreds of free Beef Burgers and Sausages, if you are looking for help "Just Ask"

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Market traders offer a friendly service to all

WITH its great service, value for money and use of local produce, it is no wonder Oswestry market has been shortlisted for the award of the nation's favourite market, traders and punters say.

Members of the public are being asked to vote for their favourite market from a shortlist of 58 with the winner due to be announced at the end of January at the National Association of British Market Authorities' annual conference.

The winners of 12 more awards will also be announced, including best small and large indoor markets, best small and large community markets and best market attraction.

Other categories include best wholesale market and best food market.

As well as the overall award Oswestry is in the running for the best speciality market for the street market that formed part of the Christmas Live celebrations. While most of the awards will be judged by a panel of industry experts, the nation's favourite market will be chosen by the voting public.

Oswestry has an outdoor market, open Wednesdays and Saturdays and the indoor market opens Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays.

There is also a Farmers Market held on the Bailey Head on the last Friday of each month and a range of speciality markets. They include charity markets, gardening markets, a continental market and the busy street market that forms part of the Christmas Live Festival. Oswestry has had a market for hundreds of years. Historians say



Oswestry market offers a wide variety of stalls and services

there has been a market in Oswestry dating back to 1190.

The market has played a key role in the development of Oswestry and the town remains a vital market and shop-

ping centre for Shropshire's north west and mid Wales. Along with the town's many specialist and independent shops, the market serves Oswestry's retail needs.

Farming barriers are lifted says research

THERE are no barriers to women entering agriculture and many of the highest profile jobs in the sector are now held by women, according to a new report published by a Shropshire law firm. The report, called *Women in Agriculture: Shaping the Future*, was commissioned by Lanyon Bowdler as part of its work with Shropshire's farming community and it reveals a hugely positive picture.

Susan Shanahan, chartered legal executive at Lanyon Bowdler Solicitors, is a former National Farmers' Union (NFU) legal adviser and acts as the company's main liaison with the NFU. In the report, she says the farming industry had changed in recent years and many women were now looking to agriculture as a career option.

Developed

She said: "Over the last 20-plus years, more women have followed careers in farming, and notable changes towards women have developed."

The report's authors spoke to a number of female farmers in Shropshire to get their perspective on the industry, and the responses were overwhelmingly

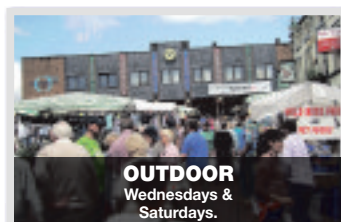


Lanyon Bowdler's office in Oswestry

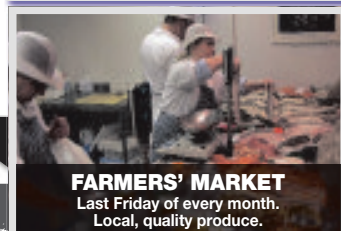
positive. Claire Barker, of Great Berwick Farm, near Shrewsbury, said: "Women are fully aware of the opportunities available and there are no barriers."

"It is very much a level playing field now for women and this is evident across the agricultural sector." Lanyon Bowdler partner Emma Wilde said the firm was working with an increasing number of rural and farming businesses, and the report gave an in-

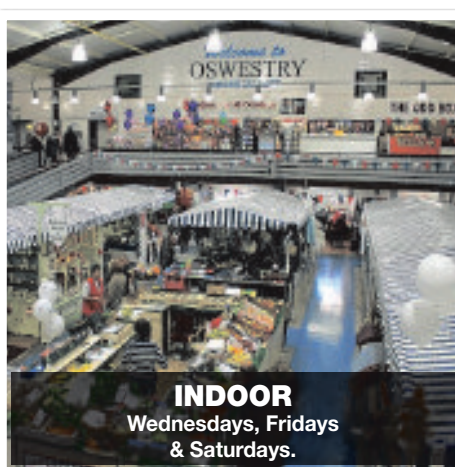
teresting insight into the current state of the industry. She said: "As one of the leading agricultural legal services specialists in Shropshire, we take a great interest in the industry and the direction it's likely to take in the future. We are keen to champion the role of women in agriculture, and this report is very encouraging." To read the report, go to the Lanyon Bowdler website at www.lblaw.co.uk and click on the blog icon.



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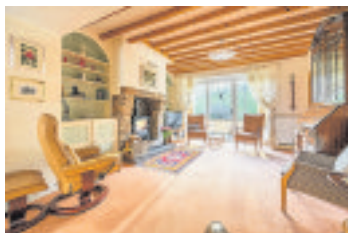


Stunning home sits in conservation area

Dating back to 1878 and formally part of the Brogyntyn Estate, The Gables, Pant Glas, Oswestry is a five-bedroomed detached family home with a one-bedroomed annexe. Sitting in around three-quarters of an acre and within a conservation area bordering the English Heritage registered Park Land, it is for sale through Woodhead Estates at £415,000. It has a porch, an entrance hall, storage,

exposed beams and parquet flooring, a dining room, parquet flooring and patio doors out to a courtyard, a day room, kitchen/breakfast room with a feature sky light, range master electric cooker, utility, storage room. There is also a living room, exposed beams and dog leg staircase off. The annexe has an entrance hall, WC, a study/bedroom and the property also has a conservatory with exposed beams

and tiled flooring, inner hallway, kitchen, bathroom, bedroom one, shower room, bedroom two, study/bedroom with wardrobes, bedroom three, dressing room, bedroom four with a Juliet balcony, bathroom, bedroom five, driveway, triple garage, stables, log store and gardens. For further information contact Woodhead Estates on 01691 680044 or visit www.woodheadestates.com



Hotel in tourist town has great development potential

Tyn-y-Wern Hotel on Maesmawr Road in Llangollen is a substantial premises with further potential. It is on the market with Morris Marshall and Poole for £950,000. Comprising a total of 12 en-suite letting rooms, split-level dining room, reception area, bar and restaurant. Operating as a successful B&B, restaurant and bar by the current occupants there is a thriving business which could be maintained and/or enhanced. Contact Morris Marshall and Poole on 01691 679595 for more details.



End of terrace property is located in a popular village

With no chain, 3 Vine Cottages, Weston Rhyn, is a delightful two bedroom end of terrace cottage in a popular village. The property is on the market with Town & Country for offers in the region of £122,000. Accommodation comprises entrance hall, living room, inner hallway, L shaped kitchen, dining room with patio doors leading to the front garden and two bedrooms and a shower room. The master bedroom is en-suite. Outside is enough space for parking two cars and to the rear is a courtyard garden. For more details contact Town & Country on 01691 679631.

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10 Roft Street, Oswestry **£139,000**

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Oswestry Office 01691 679595


13 Edward Street, Oswestry **£182,500**

Semi detached town house. Recently refurbished and improved. Two reception rooms and cloakroom. Fitted kitchen/breakfast room. Gas-fired central heating. Three bedrooms and fitted bathroom. Lawn and borders to rear garden. EPC Rating: 49 (E). No Chain

Oswestry Office 01691 679595


The Cottage, Gwern-y-Brenin **£170,000**

Rurally situated detached cottage. In need of improvement/upgrading. Three receptions and kitchen. Three bedrooms and bathroom. Spacious gardens and orchard. Garden stores and parking. Available with No Upward Chain. EPC Rating = TBC. CHAIN FREE

Oswestry Office 01691 679595


38 Beresford Gardens, Oswestry **£135,000**

End terrace town bungalow. Two bedrooms and fitted bathroom. Lounge and kitchen/breakfast room. Double glazed and gas central heating. Allocated parking spaces. Close to the town centre. Pleasant well laid out accommodation. EPC Rating 81 (C)

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Llwyn Onn, Llansantffraid **£245,000**

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Pant Glas 5/6 BED DET HOUSE
CONSERVATION AREA
3/4 OF AN ACRE
EPC RATING D
OIRO £415,000



West Felton 3 BED DET BUNGALOW
UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING
FRONT AND REAR GARDENS
EPC RATING D
OPEN TO OFFERS £269,950



Llanymynech 4 BED DET BUNGALOW
LANDSCAPED GARDEN
MASTER ENSUITE
EPC RATING E
OIRO £269,950



Llanymynech DEVELOPMENT LAND
BUILDING PLOT
DEVELOPMENT FOR 8 HOUSES
PLANNING PERMISSION
CONVENIENT LOCATION
OIRO £249,950



St Martins 3 BED DET BUNGALOW
LANDSCAPED GARDEN
LAND FOR DEVELOPMENT
EPC RATING C
OIRO £249,950



Nantmawr 3 BEDROOM DETACHED
SPLIT LEVEL PROPERTY
NO CHAIN
EPC RATING E
OIRO £249,950



Oswestry 4/5 BED DET HOUSE
2 RECEPTION ROOMS
LUXURY BATHROOM
EPC RATING D
OIRO £248,995



Treflach 4 BED DET HOUSE
2 RECEPTION ROOMS
KITCHEN/ DINER
EPC RATING D
OIRO £244,950



West Felton 2 BED DET BUNGALOW
CONSERVATORY
2 RECEPTION ROOMS
EPC RATING D
OIRO £215,000



Whittington 4 BED DET HOUSE
KITCHEN/ DINER
GARAGE
EPC RATING C
OIRO £209,950



Oswestry 3 BED DETACHED HOUSE
POPULAR LOCATION
EXTENSIVE CELLAR AREA
EPC RATING D
OIRO £204,950



Oswestry 3 BED TOWNHOUSE
GAS CENTRAL HEATING
DOUBLE GLAZING
EPC RATING C
OIRO £189,950



Chirk Bank 3 BED SEMI DET HOUSE
CONSERVATORY
QUIET LOCATION
EPC RATING C
OIRO £184,950



Llanymynech 2 BED DET BUNGALOW
CONSERVATORY
DOUBLE GLAZING
EPC RATING D
OIRO £179,950



Morda 3 BED DET HOUSE
NO CHAIN
TWO RECEPTION ROOMS
EPC RATING C
OIRO £179,950



Llangedwyn 3 BED DET BUNGALOW
DET GARAGE
DRIVEWAY
EPC RATING D
OIRO £179,950



Pentrecoed 2 BED DET COTTAGE
NO CHAIN
KITCHEN/ LIVING ROOM
EPC RATING F
OIRO £179,950



Llanymynech 3 BED DET HOUSE
2 RECEPTION ROOMS
CONSERVATORY
EPC RATING D
OIRO £179,950



Llangedwyn 3 BED DET BUNGALOW
NO CHAIN
GARAGE
EPC RATING E
OIRO £179,950



Oswestry 4 BED END OF TERRACE
OFF ROAD PARKING
2 RECEPTION ROOMS
EPC RATING D
OIRO £179,950



Oswestry 3 BED TERRACE HOUSE
CONSERVATORY
LIVING/DINING ROOM
EPC RATING C
OIRO £174,950



Whittington 2 BED DET BUNGALOW
NO CHAIN
CONSERVATORY
EPC RATING D
ASKING PRICE £162,500



Oswestry 3 BED TOWNHOUSE
NO CHAIN
DOWNSTAIRS WC
EPC RATING C
OIRO £159,950



Oswestry 3 BED SEMI DET HOUSE
2 RECEPTION ROOMS
GAS CENTRAL HEATING
EPC RATING D
OIRO £149,950



Llanfyllin 2 BED DETACHED HOUSE
NO CHAIN
2 RECEPTION ROOMS
EPC RATING G
OIRO £154,950



Llanymynech 3 BED SEMI DET HOUSE
CONSERVATORY
UTILITY ROOM
EPC RATING E
OIRO £154,950



Oswestry 2 BED TERRACE HOUSE
NO CHAIN
SOUGHT AFTER LOCATION
EPC RATING D
OIRO £149,995



Whittington 3 BED SEMI DET BUNGALOW
VILLAGE LOCATION
GARAGE
EPC RATING D
OIRO £149,950



Weston Rhyn 3 BED SEMI DET HOUSE
GAS CENTRAL HEATING
DOUBLE GLAZING
EPC RATING C
OIRO £149,950



Oswestry 3 BED DET HOUSE
2 RECEPTION ROOMS
ALSO AVAILABLE AT 50% SHARE FOR £72,500
EPC RATING
OIRO £145,950



Gobowen 61 FERNHILL LANE
2 BED SEMI DET BUNGALOW
OFF ROAD PARKING
GAS CENTRAL HEATING
EPC RATING C
OIRO £141,500



Oswestry 3 BED SEMI DET HOUSE
NO CHAIN
2 RECEPTION ROOMS
EPC RATING E
OIRO £139,950



Pant 2 BED SEMI DET BUNGALOW
ENVIABLE VIEWS
CAR PORT
EPC RATING D
OIRO £134,950



St Martins 3 BED SEMI DET HOUSE
UTILITY/STORE ROOM
FAMILY PARKING
EPC RATING E
OFFERS OVER £99,950

LETTINGS

23 YORK STREET, OSWESTRY. 2 BED TERRACED HOUSE	£395 PCM
53 YORK STREET, OSWESTRY. 2 BED TERRACED HOUSE	£450 PCM
2 GLANYRAFON, LLANGEDWYN. 2 BED SEMI DET COTTAGE	£495 PCM
19 HERITAGE WAY, LLANYMYNECH. 4 BED TOWN HOUSE	£525 PCM
8 MIDDLETON ROAD, OSWESTRY. 2 BED APARTMENT	£525 PCM
28 CASTLE WALKS, CHIRK. 3 BED SEMI DET HOUSE	£625 PCM
15 HOMESTEAD AVENUE, ST MARTINS. 3 BED DET BUNGALOW	£650 PCM
1 WILLIAM FELTON MEWS, OSWESTRY. 3 BED TOWN HOUSE	£695 PCM



Head and Shoulders Above The Rest

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Tel :01691 679631

LETTINGS

- Weston Rhyn, 2 Bed Flat £300pcm
- Weston Rhyn, 2 Bed Ap't £400pcm
- Oswestry, 2 Bed Ap't £450pcm
- Oswestry, 3 Bed Terr £500pcm
- Llanrhaeadr, 3 Bed Bung £595pcm
- Morda, 3 Bed Semi £625pcm
- Fees apply for all rental properties
- We are looking for properties to let
- in the Oswestry, Gobowen, Chirk, Whittington, Llanymynech areas.
- Please call 01691679631
- For a free market appraisal.

MORDA



- Two Bedroom Apartment
- Garage
- Double Glazing

- Gas Central Heating
- EPC Rating D
- Close to Oswestry Town

£74,950

OSWESTRY



- Immaculate Mid Mews House
- Two Bedrooms
- Modern Kitchen & Bathroom
- Gas Central Heating
- Ideal First Time Buy or Buy To Let Investment

Offers in the region of £113,500

OSWESTRY



- WITH NO CHAIN!!
- Period Mid Terrace
- Two Bedrooms. EPC D
- Paved Rear Garden
- Close to Town Centre
- Gas C H /uPVC DG

£87,450

LLANRHAEDR



- Detached Character Cottage
- Three Bedrooms
- Elevated Position. EPC E.

- Many Original Features
- Exposed Ceiling Beams
- Stone Feature Fire Surround

£188,950

LLANSILIN



- Charming Cottage
- Three Double Bedrooms
- Adjoining Barn
- Utility & W.C.
- Enclosed Garden
- Study/Nursery. EPC F

£164,950

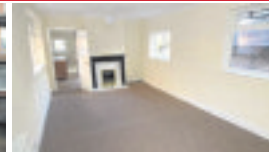
LLANGYNOG



- Charming Character Cottage
- 3 Bedrooms & 3 Ensuites
- 3 Rec. Rooms, Utility, Cloaks
- Renovated to a High Spec.
- Stunning Backdrop
- A Must See Property!

£260,000

SHREWSBURY



- TO BE SOLD AT AUCTION ON 25TH FEBRUARY 2015
- Detached Bungalow
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Off Road Parking & Gardens
- Recently Updated. EPC D.

By auction £165,000

OSWESTRY



- NO CHAIN!!!
- Three Bedroom Semi Detached
- Two Reception Rooms
- Edge of Town Location
- Gas Central Heating. EPC E
- Upvc Double Glazing

£169,000

OSWESTRY



- Large Corner Plot
- Three Bedroom Detached
- Large Gardens
- Single Garage. EPC D.
- Well Maintained Interior
- Gas Central Heating

£170,000

FOUR CROSSES



- Three Bedroom Detached
- Family Home. EPC D.
- 2 Reception Rooms
- Ample Off Road Parking
- Subject to Section 106
- Gas Central Heating

£179,950

CHIRK



- Modernised Two Bedroom
- Semi-Detached House
- Popular Residential Area
- Off-road Parking

Offers in the region of £115,000

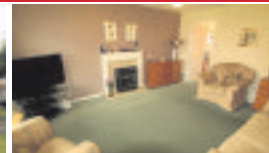
DUDLESTON HEATH



- Detached Four Bed House
- Sought After Village
- Garage. EPC D.
- Off Road Parking

£189,950

WHITTINGTON



- Spacious Detached Four Bed
- Occupying a Corner Plot
- In a Sought After Area
- Bathroom & Ensuite
- Well Maintained Interior
- Gas Central Heating

£189,950

FOUR CROSSES



- Detached Family Home
- No Onward Chain
- Four Bedrooms
- Garage & Parking for 5 Cars
- Good Sized Rear Garden
- Well Maintained

Offers in the region of £195,000

GLYN CEIRIOG



- Detached Cottage
- Four Bedrooms
- Approx. 9.5 Acres

£377,000

PANT



- Oil Central Heating. EPC E.
- Hardwood Double Glazing
- Plus Second Dwelling

PENYBONTFAWR



- Traditional Welsh Long Cottage
- Set in 6.83 Acres
- Four Double Bedrooms
- Unspoilt Rural Location
- Well Maintained. EPC E.
- Extensive Gardens

Offers in the region of £425,000

LLANMYNECH



- FABULOUS POSITION
- Recently Updated
- Detached Bungalow
- Elevated Rural Views

£249,950

WHITTINGTON



- Spacious Detached
- Family Home
- Three/Four Bedrooms
- Master Ensuite

£239,950

LLANMYNECH



- Large Detached Bungalow
- Four Bedrooms
- Spacious Accommodation
- Canalside Location

£269,950

PANT



- Unique Detached House
- Three Bedrooms
- Fantastic Views
- Garage & Parking

£249,950

LLANGEDWYN



- Idyllic Country Cottage
- Beautiful Views
- Three Bedrooms. EPC D.
- Well Established Garden

£299,950

RHIWLAS, NR OSWESTRY



- Spacious Detached Bungalow
- On Two Levels. EPC E.
- Four / Five Bedrooms
- Separate Living Facility

£299,950

Unique coverage across Shropshire, North & Mid Wales and into Cheshire

Bowen Son and Watson

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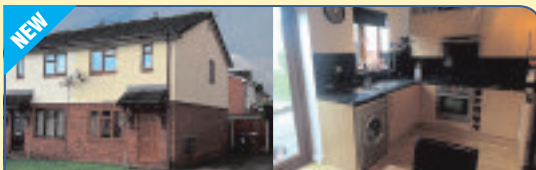


Bowen Son and Watson has been selected as the best independent estate agent by Relocation Agent Network to represent them in **Wrexham, Oswestry, Ellesmere, Llangollen and Chirk**



Brydges Gate
Llandrinio £350,000

- A well appointed and attractive 4 Bedroom Detached House
- Situated in an enviable cul-de-sac location with views towards Llanymynech Rock, Rodney's Pillar and surrounding open countryside.
- Entrance Hallway, Cloakroom, Dining Room, Lounge, Kitchen, Utility Room, Conservatory,
- 4 Double Bedrooms, 2 En-Suite Bathrooms, Family bathroom and Double garage
- Lead lighted double glazed windows and oil central heating. EPC Rating
- Set in a generous plot with a large brick driveway and spacious double garage



Smale Rise
Oswestry £122,495

- Deceptively spacious and well presented 2 Bedroom Semi-Detached Property
- Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen/Dining Room
- 2 first floor Bedrooms and Bathroom
- Private rear garden and a good size driveway
- Double glazing and gas central heating
- EPC Rating



Castle Street
Oswestry £89,450

- Spacious Edwardian 2 Bedroom Terraced House
- DOUBLE GLAZING, NEW DAMP PROOF COURSE
- AND COMPLETE REWIRING throughout.
- Living Room, Kitchen/Breakfast Room
- 2 good size Bedrooms and Bathroom
- Large front garden and ample off-road parking
- Good size courtyard with brick built storage shed to rear



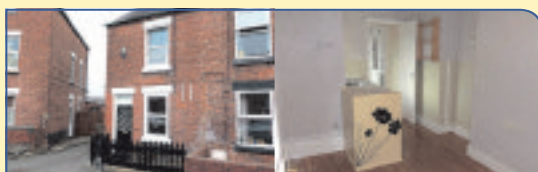
Oswald Place
Oswestry £134,995

- 3 Bed Town House with Original Features
- Within Walking Distance of Town Centre
- Kitchen Lounge, Cloakroom
- 2 Beds and Bathroom
- Master Bed with adj. Dressing Room
- Private Courtyard Garden
- Gas Central Heating, D/G. EPC Rating F



Welsh Walls
Oswestry £109,950

- Deceptively spacious Mid-Terrace Townhouse
- Views of Gae Glas Park and off-road parking
- Lounge/Dining Room, Kitchen, Rear Porch/Utility Rm
- 1st Flr Bed & Bathroom, 2nd Flr Bed & adjoining Nursery/Study
- Lawned garden & patio to rear, parking to front. Gas C/H, EPC Rating E



Prince Street
Oswestry £97,000

- Well presented and spacious End of Terrace Victorian Town House
- Living room, Kitchen/Breakfast Room, Rear Lobby
- Bathroom, Two Bedrooms
- Gas C/H, sealed unit double glazing. EPC Rating E
- Private parking space to the rear



Albert Mews
Oswestry £104,995

- A substantial 2 Bedroom Terrace Property
- Situated within walking distance of Oswestry town centre.
- Entrance Hall leading into Kitchen, Living Room
- 2 first floor Bedrooms and Bathroom.
- Private garden to rear and parking
- Gas fired central heating and uPVC double glazing. EPC Rating



Wilfred Owen Avenue
Oswestry £184,995

- A generous 3 Bedroom Detached Family Home
- Originally constructed as a 4 bed and could easily be converted back
- Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Conservatory
- 3 Bedrooms, Shower Room and Separate WC.
- Well maintained gardens with a large driveway & single garage.
- uPVC double glazing and gas fired central heating. EPC Rating D



Willow Street
Oswestry £185,000

- Situated in a prime location in the Town centre close to Wilkinsons, Edinburgh Woollen Mill and Tote Bookmakers etc.
- Recent cafe fit out, ideal for continued use (late night licence until 3.00 am) or possible alternative use
- Spacious first and second floor apartment, ideal for owner occupation/letting.



Nant Lane
Morda £189,950

- Deceptively spacious Dormer Bungalow in an elevated position
- Hall, Lounge, Study, Kitchen, Bedrm 1
- Bedroom 2/Dining Rm, Ground Floor Bathrm
- 2 1st Floor Bedrms, adjoining garage & cloak
- The gardens extend around the property
- D/G, Gas C/H, cavity wall & roof insulation. EPC 'D'



Daywell Crescent
Gobowen £124,950

- Spacious 3 bedroom Semi-Detached property
- Property has been improved by the current owners
- Lounge, Large Kitchen/Dining Rm, Rear Lobby/Utility
- Cloakroom, Three Bedrooms, Family Bathroom
- Lawned gardens, large gravelled parking area
- Gas C/H and uPVC D/G. EPC Rating D



Oak Drive
Oswestry £174,995

- A well positioned Detached Residential House
- Recently rewired, re-carpeted & re-decorated
- Ent Porch, Entrance Hall, Lounge, Dining Room
- New Fitted Kitchen, Utility/Store, Conservatory
- 3 Good Size Bedrooms and Family Bathroom
- Front and rear gardens, driveway
- Gas C/H and majority double glazing. EPC Rating E



Millars Field
Morda £149,950

- An immaculately presented 2 Bed End-Terrace Bungalow
- In an elevated position overlooking open countryside
- Constructed in 2008 & has been well maintained
- Entrance Hall, Lounge, fully fitted Kitchen
- Bathroom & 2 Bedrooms. Private rear garden
- Parking. D/G and Gas C/H. EPC Rating C



Ash Close
Weston Rhyn £169,995

- An immaculately presented Semi-Detached Family Home
- Ent Hall, Living Room, Dining Room, Kitchen
- Utility, Conservatory, 5 Beds, Family Bathrm
- Shower Room, Cloaks and Garage/Playroom
- Ample off-road parking & spacious gardens
- Gas C/H and double glazing. EPC Rating C



Offas Close
Treflach £350,000

- 5/6 Bedroom Executive Family Home
- Ent Hall, Cloaks, Lounge, Games Room
- Large Kitchen/Dining/Family Rm
- Utility/Shower Rm, Master Bedroom (en-suite)
- Bedroom 2 (en-suite), 3 Further Bedrooms
- Family Bathroom, Study/Bed 6
- Large Gravelled Driveway. D/G. Oil C/H. EPC Rating C



Pitt Lane
Treflach £400,000

- An excellent Detached Country Property
- Set in an elevated position with excellent views over open countryside
- Reception Hall, Cloaks, Study, Lounge, Sun Lounge
- Dining Room, Kitchen/Breakfast Room, Boot/Utility Rm
- 4 Double Bedrooms and Family Bathroom
- South facing landscaped gardens, double garage
- Garden store and vegetable plot. Oil C/H. EPC Rating E



Great Ness
Shrewsbury £350,000

- A Grade II Listed Period Property believed to date from the early 17th Century situated in the charming hamlet of Great Ness with excellent views over rolling countryside
- Sympathetically restored and extended by the current owners to create a spacious family home yet retaining a host of original features. Mature well stocked gardens & offer the perfect back drop
- Lounge, Living Room, Dining Room, Kitchen, Utility & Shower Room. 3 large bedrooms & Family Bathroom, a further 2 Bedrooms and a Study



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ST. MARTINS



- Well maintained four bed. s/det. house
- GFC/H & PVC D/G
- Sitting Room
- Breakfast Kitchen
- Utility
- Cloakroom
- Conservatory
- Bathroom & En-Suite
- Ample Parking
- Enclosed Rear Garden
- EPC Band - D
- JJD860

£169,995

ST. MARTINS



- Detached House
- Occupying Pleasant Rural Position
- Opportunity for further improvement
- GFC/H
- D/G & Secondary D/G
- Sitting Room & Living Room
- Dining Kitchen
- 3 Good Sized Bedrooms
- Garaging
- Good Sized Garden
- EPC Band D
- JJD805

£239,000

GOBOWEN



- Detached Three Bedroom Split Level House
- GFC/H, D/G
- Impressive Lounge
- Dining Room
- Breakfast Kitchen & Utility
- Garage & Car Parking
- Attractive Patio Garden
- Elevated Position
- Overlooking Village
- EPC Band D
- JJD781

£198,500

PANT



- Detached Family House
- GFC/H & DG
- Living Room
- Dining Room
- Breakfast Kitchen
- Utility/Cloakroom
- Three Bedrooms
- Large Garden
- Garage
- Ample Parking
- Open Views Of Countryside
- EPC Band - F
- JJD850

£275,000

OSWESTRY



- Spacious Fully Modernised Nineteenth Century House
- GFC/H & DG
- Breakfast Kitchen
- Dining Room/Sitting Room
- Four Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Workshop
- Ample Parking
- Timber Store Shed
- Neighbouring shops and school
- EPC Band - E
- JJD857

£219,950

OSWESTRY



- Victorian End Terrace House
- GFC/H
- Two Reception Rooms
- Dining Kitchen
- Two Bedrooms And Loft Room
- Modern Bathroom
- Rear Garden
- Walking Distance Of Town & Woodside School
- EPC Band - E
- JJD853

£135,000

WHITTINGTON



- Four Bed. Edwardian House
- Exceptionally Well Appointed
- GFC/H & UPVC DG
- Cloakroom
- Three Reception Rooms
- Breakfast Kitchen
- Sewing Room
- Good Sized Garden
- Garaging & Driveway
- EPC Band - D
- JJD854

£279,950


PORTH-Y-WAEN



- Exceptionally Well Appointed Country Property
- Central Heating & D/ Glazing
- 2 Good Sized Reception Rooms
- Breakfast Kitchen
- 3 Beds
- En-suite
- Bathroom
- Double Garaging and Workshop
- Attractive Garden And Small Paddock
- EPC Band E
- JJD749

£274,500

LLANFECHAIN



- Kitchen
- Drawing Room
- Lounge & Sun Room
- Library & Study
- Cloakroom
- 5 Bedrooms/2 Baths
- Double Garaging
- Possibility to split accommodation
- EPC Band - C
- JJD833

GUIDE PRICE £400,000


ST. MARTINS - BUILDING PLOT



- Good sized building plot
- Suitable for an executive house
- O.P.P. for single dwelling
- Semi-rural location
- Close to Village facilities
- South facing aspect towards Shropshire Union Canal
- All mains services available
- JJD855

£120,000

GLYN CEIRIOG



- For sale as a whole or in two lots
- Three productive grass paddocks
- Totalling nearly 6 acres
- Lot 1 - 2.79 acres
- Lot 2 - 3.138 acres
- Ideally suited for stock or horses
- Vehicle access onto adjoining road
- South facing aspect overlooking Village
- JJD859

FOR THE WHOLE £60,000

OSWESTRY - BUILDING PLOT



- Good sized building plot
- Approx. 720 sq. metres
- Sought after residential area
- P/permission for detached bungalow with double Garage
- Reasonable level walking distance of Town
- We understand all mains services are available to site
- JJD787

£154,750

OSWESTRY (01691) 653437 - (01691) 680212



Residential Sales

Balfours

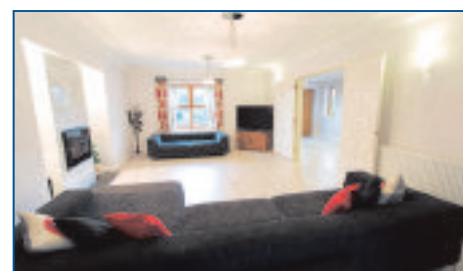
property professionals



Cockshutt, Ellesmere, Shropshire

A modern executive detached family home with a low maintenance garden

2 Reception Rooms, Kitchen, Study, Utility Room, Master Bedroom Suite with Dressing Room and En Suite Bath/Shower Room, 4 Further Bedrooms, 2 Further Bathrooms. EPC C. Double Garage. Gardens. **Guide Price £550,000**



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please visit our website

01743 353511



Delivery solution is found

RESIDENTS hit by regular flooding will have their post delivered to a Post Office in future bad weather.

Royal Mail said it regularly has difficulty delivering post to around 80 homes in the Melverley and Maesbrook areas, near Oswestry.

Now the firm said it will work with nearby Kinnerley Post Office to deliver the post. Darren Viner, Royal Mail delivery office manager, said: "Residents in the Melverley and Maesbrook area, habitually cut off by flood water around this time of year, were extremely grateful last year when Royal Mail, working closely with nearby Kinnerley Post Office, offered an alternative collection service to around 80 affected addresses."

"This arrangement worked well, so we intend to offer this service again. We will be writing to customers to let them know in advance what our contingency plans are should flooding occur again in the near future."

Amazing image of comet

IT'S here now but will then will be gone for the next 8,000 years.

Comet Lovejoy Q2 has been sailing through the Shropshire night sky and captured in this stunning image by Oswestry Chronicle photographer and astronomer Peter Shah.

Peter, from Meifod, near Welshpool, said: "I took the image as it passed through Taurus. The image is comprised of over 40 separate frames and stacked together to make a total exposure of 40 minutes."

"Comet Lovejoy Q2 passed closest to the earth at 43 million miles on January 7 but can be seen in our Shropshire skies throughout January."

"Visible as a tear-drop-shaped misty patch with a slight green hue, it is best viewed through a pair of binoculars or a small telescope. Lovejoy will not return for another 8,000 years."

Comet Lovejoy is around 43 million miles from Earth and was thought to be travelling at around 15 miles a second.

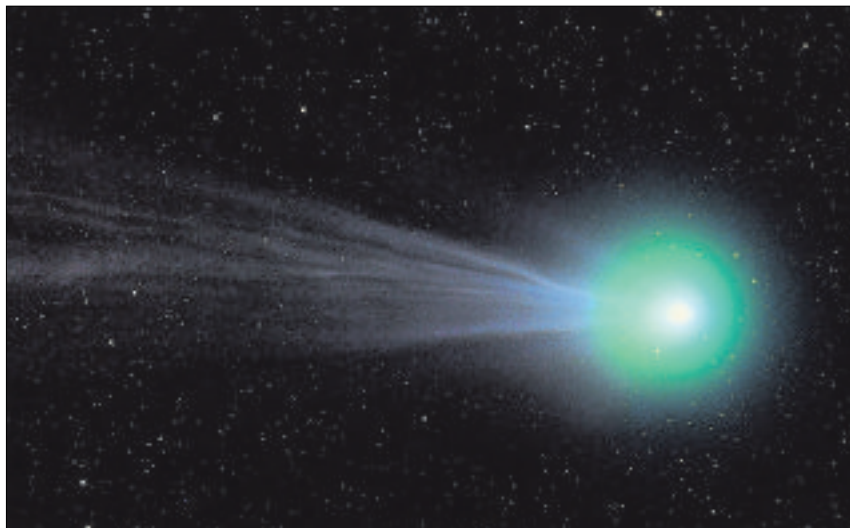
It was first spotted by Australian Terry Lovejoy, who has a prolific record among amateur astronomers, and

he named the comet. To date, Mr Lovejoy, from Queensland, has discovered five comets, all using relatively simple equipment compared to what's found at a professional observatory. It was first spotted on August 17 and in recent weeks has been dramatically captured on camera by amateur astronomers around the world.

The comet's distinctive green glow comes from molecules of diatomic carbon – two carbon atoms joined together – and cyanogen fluorescing in the ultraviolet light from the sun.

Its tail takes on a more blue tinge due to the carbon monoxide it contains.

By Andrew Morris



Comet Lovejoy Q2 as it passed through Taurus, captured by Oswestry Chronicle photographer Peter Shah

NEWS IN BRIEF

Police helping with patient care

LONG waiting times at A&E departments are having a major impact on policing in parts of Wales, it has been claimed.

Dyfed-Powys Police and Crime Commissioner Christopher Salmon said officers are taking people to hospital when there are not enough ambulances.

Mr Salmon said his officers transported 22 people to hospital in December. Mr Salmon said the long-running problem had "got significantly worse." In Mid Wales, there is no major general hospital, with people from Montgomeryshire going to Royal Shrewsbury Hospital or Bronglais Hospital in Aberystwyth.

Dog is rescued

A DOG was rescued by firefighters after getting stuck between rungs in a step ladder.

The labrador had lodged itself in the ladder in Racecourse Road in Rhydycroesau, near Oswestry on Friday.

With a new boiler, you'll have even more reasons to feel warm this winter:

- What we quote is what you'll pay, even if there's extra work to do
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www.spenergynetworks.co.uk



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SP ENERGY NETWORKS



Newbridge Day Nursery

www.newbridgedaynursery.co.uk



✓ Open 7.30am - 18.00pm
52 weeks a year

✓ babies from birth - 5 years

✓ 2 baby rooms

✓ Holiday Club and after school club

✓ Caring and experienced qualified staff

✓ Term time only spaces available

✓ Shropshire Council's Healthy Eating Platinum Award

✓ Extensive outdoor play area including hard surfaced area, vegetable patch and den making area

✓ 2 4 u funding available

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Maesbury Hall Mill, Newbridge, Oswestry SY10 8BB

01691 670206

Nursery will care for all the needs of your child

NEWBRIDGE Day Nursery is located in beautiful surroundings just a couple miles out of Oswestry near Maesbury and within easy access to the A5 and the A483 trunk routes.

Newbridge Day Nursery is privately owned by June Jones.

June has more 25 years experience of caring for babies and young children.

June and her team have over the years built up a vast knowledge and wealth of experience for caring for young children and babies.

June is supported by 18 members of full and part time staff.

With many parents needing to return to work the nursery is aware that the choice of childcare is probably the biggest decision parents will be making.

The nursery is open from 7.30am to 6pm on Monday to Friday throughout the year excluding Bank Holidays.

The nursery will aim to offer great flexibility for parents and carers whilst providing a caring and safe learning environment, and where individual attention maximises and enriches the development and potential of all children in their first journey through life.

It has two baby rooms with up to nine children in each room.

The nursery has one toddler room with up to 15 children.

Its pre school consists of two rooms linked together which takes up to 27 children.

Parent Jo Mercer said: "Newbridge came highly recommended.



Laura Evans, parent Jo Mercer with baby Owain, and Kellie Morris

"My eldest daughter started at two years old and the team were flexible and very supportive and understanding so she settled in with minimal upset."

"As a result I had no hesitation

when my baby needed to go to nursery due to me being self employed," Jo said.

"Again June and her fabulous team have helped with this difficult step," Jo added.

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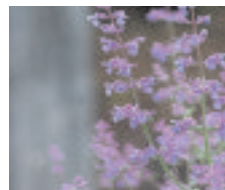
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CLASS TIMETABLE

**Bodytech, Market Gate, Salop Rd
Oswestry, SY11 2NR
Tel: 01691 657400**

<p>Monday 10am - 10:45am - Fit Ball 11 - 11:45am - The Big Stretch 5:30 - 6:15pm - Guns 4 Girls 6:15 - 7:15pm - Body Combat 7:15 - 8:15pm - Spinning</p> <p>Tuesday 10:15 - 11am - Beginners Spin 11 - 12 - Body Conditioning 5:30 - 6:15pm - Zumba 6:15 - 7pm - Spin 7 - 8pm - Race Day Spin 8 - 9pm - Pilates</p> <p>Wednesday 10 - 11am - Zumba 11 - 12pm - Dance Aerobics 5:45 - 6:30pm - Spin 6:30 - 7:30pm - Body Attack (Taster Class) 7:30 - 8:30pm - Kettleercise</p>	<p>Thursday 10 - 11am - Low Impact Aerobics 11 - 12pm - Pilates 6 - 7pm - Spin 7 - 8pm - Body Conditioning 8 - 9pm - Fit Step</p> <p>Friday 10 - 11am - Baby Ballet 6 - 7pm - Body Combat 7 - 8pm - Spin</p> <p>Saturday 10 - 11am - Boxercise</p>
---	---

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Bodytech Oswestry Gets Club Re-launch

The Health club situated on Salop Road has had a dramatic make over to reaffirm its position as one of Shropshire's leading fitness facilities.

Jeff Anderson, Managing Director of Bodytech Health Clubs said: "We have made a number of changes at the club which we are sure our members will love. The whole place has had a makeover adding a motivational colour scheme and new carpets throughout the club. The fitness team has more than doubled in size, including the introduction of a new Studio Manager, Tracey Whitfield, who has added exciting classes such as Les Mills Body Attack and Body Combat to our already strong timetable. We have also redeveloped the personal training packages we provide to ensure our members get the very best care at no extra cost".

In addition to the many improvements that have been made at the club, Bodytech Oswestry has also been bolstered by launch of its new weight loss club. The club that is free for members and 5 for non-members provides all the information and support required to be able to start your fitness and weight loss plan.

To book a free taster session or for more information about the Bodytech Oswestry please give reception a call on 01691 657400.



New rail group calls for better service in region

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Chronicle Recruitment & Public Notice

To advertise your vacancy to our **16,569** readersTelephone 01691 668095 or email marcusevans@shropshirestar.co.uk

*Source: ABC



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Oswestry School seeks a School Receptionist, to be based at our senior school site. The role will involve being the first front of house contact for both visitors and phone calls. The position will also offer administrative support for the School.

Applications for both full time and part time (as part of a job share) working will be considered.

Closing dates for all applications Friday 30th January 2015

For an application form and job description please contact: The Finance Manager, Oswestry School, Upper Brook Street, Oswesry SY11 2TL

tel:01691 655711

email:hja@oswestryschool.org.uk

www.oswestryschool.org.uk

The School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people. Applicants must be willing to undergo child protection screening, including checks with past employers and the Disclosure and Barring Service.

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**Women seeking men**

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.53 per minute plus network extras. Texts cost £1.50 per message sent.

KAREN 50, widow, blonde hair, GSOH, 5ft 5ins, slim, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 415767** ☎

TRUDY 36yrs, wtm broadminded men of any age/area for daytime meetings. **Text Only 4550194** ☎

GEM 34yr old pretty brunette with lovely big eyes and nice skin, many interests, WLTm kind tallish male, 30-50yrs for serious relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 415571** ☎

MELANIE, 38, slim, blonde and bored. Call if you want no strings fun. **Text Only 4550198** ☎

SYLVIA attractive blonde size 12 45yr old female looking for genuine companionship, someone to spend quality times with, enjoy music and cosy times together. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 415543** ☎

JENNI, 52 bored housewife wants no strings fun with younger chap. **Text Only 4550197** ☎

HOME alone far too often, attractive bubbly fun good time girl 32yrs seeking male 30-50yrs for broadminded daytime fun. Let's rid the boredom! **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 415523** ☎

SUE attractive, independent, confident female, sporty, petite, loves the Arts, good books, looking for romantic, sensitive nice guy for nice times together. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 415501** ☎

KAREN medium build, blonde hair, 5ft 5ins, seeks male, 50-58, GSOH, loving, caring and understanding. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 415429** ☎

KAREN 50, widow, 5ft 5ins, blonde hair, blue eyes, slim, seeks gent with GSOH, loving, caring and understanding. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 415871** ☎

SOPHIA young 40yrs, married but bored, seeks discreet adult fun, any area, all calls answered. **Tel No: 0905 002 1883 Box No: 413399**

GWEN middle aged, 65-75, 5ft 2ins, likes theatre, country music, holidays, seeks N/S male. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 415785**

LUCY, 32yrs, blonde lady seeks naughty boys of any age for no strings fun. **Tel No: 0905 002 1887 Box No: 413443**

ASIA very attractive slim single black 32yr female looking for fun times with god time guy with GSOH and a real passion for life and falling in love. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 415837** ☎

ADVENTUROUS sexy lady, 38yrs, married but seeks no strings fun with discreet man, any age. I'm tall, slim and dominant. Aca. **Tel No: 0905 002 1937 Box No: 415301**

SARAH 31yrs looking for casual 1-2-1 no strings fun with broadminded bored male. Status unimportant, discretion and mutual respect essential. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 415821** ☎

LUCY, broadminded 18yrs seeks discreet fun with men any age. Aca. **Tel No: 0905 002 1941 Box No: 365051**

LINDA uncomplicated female who loves the simple things in life, looking for N/S male with GSOH for nights in/out, no games, users or time wasters please. s **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 415535** ☎

SEXY brunette, mid 20's busty, adventurous broad minded seeks no strings fun. **Tel No: 0905 002 1949 Box No: 361739**

PATRICIA widow 67, likes simple pleasures in life, seeks gent N/S for friendship/companionship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 415685**

SALLY, 38yrs large cuddly lady seeks slim men for discreet meetings. **Text Only 4550193** ☎

MANDY very attractive, slim single mum 36yrs, employed, OHAC, looking to share some quality times with similar genuine kind hearted social male/dad. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 415409** ☎

DIANE attractive singleton seeks male to have some fun with, meals out, cinema, dancing and just see were things lead from there. Age/race unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 415373** ☎

SHELIA Asian 20yr old female, very pretty, feminine with long hair, enjoys nights in or out, seeking mature white male 55plus for discreet fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 415181** ☎

MARGARET 39, attractive active female likes animals, reading, meals in/out, seeking considerate partner for good laughs, companionship, shared interests and more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 414727** ☎

KAREN 50, widow, likes swimming, horse riding, keep fit, clay pigeon shooting, GSOH, N/S, non drinker, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 415211** ☎

AMANDA 5ft 4ins slim fit attractive, enjoys the outdoors, nice wine, theatre etc. seeking romantic considerate soul mate to broaden my horizons. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 415391** ☎

SAM attractive single mum who really enjoys life and likes to be happy WLTm genuine single male/dad for mutual companionship, dates in/out and tic. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 415381** ☎

KAREN medium build, blonde hair, 5ft 5ins, seeks male, 50-58, GSOH, loving, caring and understanding. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 415429** ☎

23YR old Asian female, seeks sugar daddy, any age for fun and much more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 415367** ☎

YOUNG looking female, likes rock music, concerts, theatre, seeks Rock male with similar interests for relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 415249** ☎

Men seeking women

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45YR old male, 5ft 10ins, muscular, outgoing, adventurous, genuine, seeking lasting loving relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 415873** ☎

JOHN, 42yrs professional genuine gent seeks caring lady to treat as a princess. **Text Only 4550195** ☎

JAS 40, looking for attractive young female for good times and socialising. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 415805** ☎

FIT 68yr old male, feels 40, looks 30, genuine, seeks N/S female 50-65 for GSOH to share fun times and LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 415787**

MARK 6ft, slim, blue eyes, dark hair, seeking that special lady. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 415697** ☎

NICK 52, 6ft, slim, genuine, seeking slim female for relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 415881** ☎

38 year old male, likes cycling, country walks, and watching films, athletic build, 6ft tall hazel eyes would like to meet sincere lady. **Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4612487** ☎

ROY 6ft 2ins, late 50's, seeks female. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 414775** ☎

GENT 53, 5ft 11ins, brown eyes, distinguished, seeking attractive lady, 30-45 for discreet fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 415809** ☎

JAMES, hard working single dad, late 30's seeks single mum for family days out. **Text Only 4550196** ☎

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PHIL 57, OHAC, discreet, seeks no strings fun with younger female. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 414991** ☎

GARY 6ft 2ins, dark hair, brown eyes, medium build, likes nights in/out, seeks female, 30-50. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 414845** ☎

MALE 47, medium build, seeks female 40-50 for fun and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 415651** ☎

JOHN 46, West Midlands, seeks local black/Asian female, 30-70 for discreet adult fun, can travel. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 415591**

MALE seeking fun bubbly female, 21-30. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 415473**

GENTLEMAN retired, N/S, seeking lady for companionship and sharing good times with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 415609**

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*The "from" price and price bands vary for each show – see brochure for details.

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For a theatre brochure call the Promotions team on (01902) 319999 (Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm), or go to shropshirestar.com/starextratrans

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Parking hitch a thing of past

By Graham Breeze

Caravan and trailer owners should be on red alert at the arrival this month of the new Passat as Volkswagen looks to push the eighth-generation model upmarket.

It's neither magic or witchcraft but VW has solved all your agonising reversing problems at one swoop. In simple terms the new Passat reverses for you – you just need the confidence to sit behind the wheel and watch.

Lots of manufacturers have introduced park assist systems which allow you to let the car reverse into one of those tight spaces but this is the first time I have come across a Trailer Assist reversing system – without the need for any modification or adaptation of the trailer.



The good news is that if you choose a model with parking assist the trailer system only cost an extra £465, which could turn out to be the best cash you ever spend if like me you find reversing a bit of a problem.

Everything is new about the eighth generation Passat, which since launch in 1973 has racked up over 22 million sales worldwide with VW seeing the model as the bridge between the upper medium and premium class.

Only diesel engines are available in the UK, ranging in power from a 1.6-litre 120 PS, through two 2.0-litre units with 150 or 190 PS, to a range-topping 2.0-litre bi-turbo with 240 PS, DSG gearbox and 4MOTION four-wheel drive. A plug-in hybrid GTE version with a 1.4-litre TSI petrol engine and electric motor will follow in October and a frugal BlueMotion with a 1.6-litre engine returning 78 mpg and just 95 g/km of CO2 will join the range in June 2015, while an Alltrack version of the estate is due in July.

At launch, five trim levels are offered: S, SE, SE Business, GT and R-Line. All offer a high level of standard features with highlights including post-collision braking system and mis-fuelling prevention on all; front assist, adaptive cruise control, pre-crash system, driver profile selection, ergo comfort seats and front and rear parking sensors on SE and above; and discover navigation on the SE Business which is aimed at fleet drivers.

Heated Alcantara seats, three-zone climate control and 18-inch wheels are standard on GT, while the range-topping R-Line adds a host of bespoke design features.

It's shorter than the old model, but features a longer wheelbase, which means it has more head and leg room.



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There are four TDI diesels, with the range starting with a 1.6 TDI with 120PS. Volkswagen claims that the 150PS 2.0 TDI with 340Nm of torque will be the most popular.

On test was a 190PS 2.0-litre diesel estate, with 400Nm of torque, a top speed of 144mph, 0-62mph in 7.9seconds and combined fuel figures of 61.4mpg. CO2 levels are impressive at just 120g/km. The front-wheel drive model came with six speed DSG gearbox.

New optional features include in-car connection to the internet via a smartphone and wi-fi hotspot allowing you to access traffic data, news and weather via the colour touchscreen information system.

There's predictive pedestrian protection through a radar scanning system, traffic jam assist, emergency stopping assist and later this year a new system will arrive replacing the traditional instrument cluster with an interactive 12.3inch display system and a heads-up screen display.

On the road the new Passat is quiet and refined with very little engine or road noise and handling is not a problem.

There is no doubt that new Passat is an impressive arrival and the reversing system an absolute joy but it all comes at a price with the bottom range model likely to cost you over £22,000. The test car had a starting price of £30,900 but with a host of extras that shot up to over £36,000.

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At less than £8,000, award-winning Vauxhall dealer Arthurs of Oswestry and Newtown, can't believe the all-new Viva is so attractively priced.

"We can't wait for this most competitive small car to arrive in our showrooms," said Steve Hughes, Arthurs operations manager.

"The all-new five door Viva is not only well priced, but well specified and we are looking forward to its arrival at

our Newtown and Oswestry branches where we already know it will be one of the most popular new arrivals from Vauxhall.

"For not only does this small, well equipped car look practical, it is also most comfortable for up to five people.

Viva joins new Corsa and ADAM in a compelling small car portfolio.

"And it includes IntelliLink connectivity for seamless smartphone integration."

Arriving next spring, the Viva will be the latest addition to Vauxhall's small car range, joining the immensely fast-

ionable ADAM and popular Corsa supermini.

Said Steve: "With a name that pays homage to Vauxhall's original Viva made from 1963 to 1979, the all-new Viva shares the original's philosophy of clean lines, durability and practicality."

"It is designed for modern, every day life and at 3.68 metres in length is practical and spacious with more than enough room for up to five people."

Pictured: Steve Hughes can't wait for the all-new Viva to arrive in the showroom.

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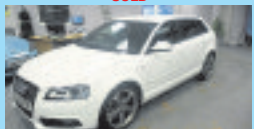
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Skoda wins the space race

The new ŠKODA Fabia Estate offers plenty of space for up to five passengers and their luggage even with the car's compact exterior dimensions.

The boot has the largest capacity in its segment at 530 litres (1395 litres with the rear seat folded down). In addition, the third-generation model is more practical than ever with up to 17 Simply Clever solutions, 10 of which are on offer for the first time.

The design of the new car is significantly more emotive than before. Just as with the hatchback, the new ŠKO-

DA Fabia Estate features a modern, sharp design language, dynamic proportions, as well as design elements from the ŠKODA VisionC show car. Precise lines and sharp edges testify to the highest production quality and attention to detail. Crystalline elements and the striking interplay between light and shadow emphasise the strong appearance. The interior has also been completely redesigned, and offers an array of customisation options.

The estate now features innovative safety, comfort and infotainment

systems from higher vehicle classes, including the innovative MirrorLink technology, displaying smartphone apps, such as sat-nav, on the infotainment system screen. The SmartGate function is also new. This technology enables data on the vehicle to be displayed and saved on your smartphone via special apps.

The new Fabia Estate consumes up to 17 per cent less fuel than the second-generation model. The most economical version will be the new Fabia Estate GreenLine.

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38 **Confident
Rangers
ready for
high-flyers**

Oswestry & Border Chronicle Thursday, January 22, 2015

ELLESMERE RANGERS head for leaders Gornal Athletic on Saturday with confidence high after going so close to completing the double over Sporting Khalsa, the red hot favourites to be crowned West Midlands League premier division champions.

Khalsa, currently third in the table with plenty of games in hand on the two teams above them, have won all 19 of their league games not involving Ellesmere this season.

But, having lost at Beech Grove earlier this season, they were rescued by an 87th minute equaliser as the points were shared from a 1-1 draw in the rematch last weekend.

Ellesmere boss Dan Stevens was delighted with the resilience shown by his team against a side he believes will run away with the division and could end up with as many as 150 points to their name.

"They said they were glad to see the back of us for this season after the game," reflected Stevens.

Dropped

"They've only dropped four points this season and they've all been against us."

"Their home record before we went there was 12 wins from 12 games and only two goal conceded so it was a great effort from our lads.

"Khalsa didn't realise until we told them just how young our back four are as they're all 19. It was a brilliant rearguard action and Josh Parker was absolutely outstanding.

"The lads felt they had lost afterwards as the equaliser came to late, but when they reflect in a few days about the game they will know it was a great effort and to have taken four points off Khalsa this season is an achievement."

Ellesmere took the lead in the 27th minute when Paddy Townsend reacted quickest to turn in the rebound after the keeper was unable to hold on to a shot from top scorer Scott Ryan.

Rangers had a couple of chances in the second half on the counter attack to put the game to bed, but they went begging and Khalsa pulled level three minutes from time although Ellesmere felt there was a foul on defender Parker in the build up.

"Their player said it was a definite foul, but it's one of them," said Stevens. "It wasn't quite to be."

Ellesmere are now looking forward to having a crack at leaders Gornal Athletic this weekend.

**Harriers
ace is on
top again**

MALDWIN HARRIERS embarked on a successful outing in the penultimate race in Herefordshire League cross-country series with the men taking the team honours and Tim Davies storming to a third victory in a row.

Running at Monkhall Farm, Herefordshire, Davies led the way with a time of 37:57, which was three and a half minutes quicker than his second placed rival and put him well on course for the individual series title.

Roland Stafford (8th), Chris Atherton (11th) and Martin Copus (21st) completed the scoring for the Men's A team who remain in second place in the team championship.

Oswestry still waiting for first win of year

OSWESTRY'S disappointing start to the New Year continued with a 21-10 home loss to Orrell to further dampen any hopes of promotion from rugby's South Lanes and Cheshire Two.

It was their third defeat in a row in 2015 and, although the Eagles remain in fifth spot, they are now 19 points adrift of the top two places.

Despite unconverted tries from Zac Baldwin and Hamish Fuller, Os were left with little to show for their efforts on a frustrating afternoon at a muddy Granville Park.

They were always in the hunt before succumbing to a last-gasp breakaway try in a stop-start affair, with the hosts left to reflect

on several decisions going against them.

Both sides had their fair share of the game in the opening stages, but Orrell struck first with a penalty after the hosts were penalised at a scrum.

Stung into action, the Eagles hit back for their first points when New Zealander Baldwin executed an excellent move by passing cleverly to his countryman Fuller, who promptly passed the ball over the line for an unconverted score.

But the lead was short-lived as the visitors won a second penalty from close in, which they duly slotted over to go 6-5 in front.

With both camps competing well, the referee's whistle slowed

down proceedings by awarding scrum after scrum, and the hosts saw their efforts frustrated by a number of infringements.

Orrell stretched their lead with another penalty and the Greater Manchester men extended that advantage with their first try when latching onto a long kick up-field from the hosts.

They duly kicked back deep into home territory and, with the ball heading towards the try line, the bounce was unkind to the hosts and Orrell pounced for their first try, which went unconverted.

The second half started in much the same way with the Eagles on the wrong end of several decisions, but they started to get into

their stride with James Anderson playing out of his skin and Gaz Hughes creating chances alongside Baldwin and Fuller.

The hosts continued to battle hard in the increasingly muddy conditions, with a series of scrums forming a long period of play as the tenacious Nick Clay shone at scrum half.

A really good spell from the Eagles saw them go close, with Hughes threatening to break the shackles following a storming run while Orrell's spoiling saw them pick up a yellow card.

A fantastic move by Rich Owen and Baldwin resulted in a disallowed try, with the refereeing ruling the attacker had been held up.

However, the Eagles were not to be denied and more stirring work from the forwards sent Baldwin over to put the hosts back in the hunt, just four points adrift.

Ivor Hughes, Fuller an Owen launched some great passes and movement as the Eagles went close to another try only to be called back for a scrum.

With a minute to go Oswestry were on the attack but a loose ball found the boot of Orrell's centre, whose kicked down the pitch was collected close to the line and resulted in a decisive score which was converted for a 21-10 victory.

It was kick in the teeth for the hosts, particularly as two Orrell players appeared well offside.

Titans make waves with historic podium showing

ELLESMERE College Titans set history when they travelled to Manchester's Commonwealth long course pool to compete in the North-west Premier division area finals of the National Arena Swimming League.

The Titans went into the finals being victors in both the previous rounds in arguably the strongest swimming division in the country made up of four of the previous cup final and B finalists from the 379 teams taking part from all over England and Wales.

And the team rose to the occasion to return home with even more top three positions than in any previous year – with eight first place finishes, plus 12 second and 13 third **SWIMMING – by John Bridgwater**

finished in a terrific second place and both the girls and boys under-13 4 x 50m medley team recorded two valuable third placings.

By the start of the individual events, Ellesmere were lying in third place but soon improved this with a second place recorded by 11-year-old Phoebe Townsend in the 10/11 50m backstroke, missing out on the touch by five hundredths of a second with 34.79.

Finished

In the under-13 100m breaststroke, Adam Metcalf also finished second in 1:17.00.

Fourteen-year-old Tazmin Pugh took second place in the 100m backstroke with Chloe Golding, 16, third in the Open 100m butterfly.

With Joe Roebuck and Phoebe Townsend in action again soon after, another two second places came the Titans' way in the men's Open fly and 10/11 50m fly respectively.

Meanwhile, 13-year-old Ellinor Southward was in impressive form in winning the under-13 backstroke in 1:06.23, while Tazmin Pugh climbed the winner's podium in the 100m fly in 1:03.04. Charlie Hutchison also added third placed

points when swimming in a category three years above his age-group. Chloe Golding took second place in her favoured 100m backstroke event (1:03.73) while winning ways were resumed with Jonathan Carlisle (56.73) in the open 100m back. Ellie Bainbridge (40.00) then took second and Alex Rosser-Barnett (42.76) third in the 10/11 50m breast stroke event. Southward (1:07.54) followed her earlier backstroke victory with another powerful finish in the girls under-13s fly, while there was also a superb victory for Hutchison in the boys under-13s fly.

Ellie Bainbridge was in action again in the 10.11 50m freestyle taking second place (30.80) while Harry Curtis was also second in the boys event with Alex Rosser-Barnett also impressing in his event.

In one of the last individual events, Rebecca Winn was far from daunted in the top class field when taking third (1:20.10) in the under-15 100m breaststroke.

The final relays followed with first places recorded by the girls in the 9/11age group 4 x 50 Medley relay with five seconds to spare, while the boys took second.

Fired-up thirds rack up fourth victory on spin

FORTUNES continue to look up for Oswestry III who reeled off their fourth straight win in the Freshlet League division five (south) with a 36-3 beating of Acton Nomads.

With all three Oswestry teams playing at home, and both pitches at Granville Park occupied, the team found themselves taking a trip down the road to Ellesmere College to fulfil the fixture.

And they made light of the change of venue to run out convincing winners.

Fly-half Alun Morris bagged a hat-trick of tries to help his side leapfrog their visitors and move in sight of the division's top four.

After Nomads kicked an early penalty, the Eagles hit back and their pressure finally earned its reward when Morris grabbed the first of his treble when he dummied and ran through the Nomads defence to score a try which he also converted.

The Eagles were looking a bit shaky but were settled when some lovely hands and

footwork from Aussie Adam Plumber put Scott Valley through to finish off nicely in the corner.

The overlapping Jon Evans then scored in the corner following a fine team move and the hardworking Plumber also crossed for a 22-3 interval lead.

Despite a deterioration of the weather, some more slick passing and running from the centres, Plumber and Grant McKay, saw the ball come back inside to Morris to grab his second of the game.

Style

With the game now sealed, the backs were turning it on in style, with some very good movement and slick passing.

With the clock running down, there was still time for Morris to bag his hat-trick, with a powerful run and dive over the whitewash to cap a fine team display.

Oswestry now have a week off before another home game against Ellesmere Port the following Saturday.



Narrow defeat in mud bath

Winger Ieuan Williams halts a Mold attack in COBRA's hard-fought defeat, with centre Andrew Price in support. COBRA were beaten 11-8 at home.

COBRA scrum-half Alwyn Williams wrestles with a mud-covered Mold forward, with Jack Jukes behind during last weekend's Swalec League match.

COBRA slip up at home

AFTER failing to build on a bright start, COBRA suffered a frustrating 11-8 loss at home to Mold to remain in the bottom four of rugby's Swalec League division one (north).

It was a disappointing outcome for the Meifod men who, having led 8-0 in the first half in increasingly heavy conditions, emerged with just one bonus point for their efforts in a game they could have won.

They started well enough, and went ahead with a try from fly-half Llew Williams who made the most of his overlap after being released by Jack Jukes.

The conversion was missed, but Williams increased the lead with a penalty before errors started to creep into the game as Mold reduced the arrears at the break with a try from a driving maul.

The second half became a tight, cagey affair, but the visitors made the most of

their chances to kick two penalties that proved enough to return with the points.

COBRA struggled to establish good field position in the increasing mud bath, but they would have been frustrated that they failed to capitalise on three good attacking positions close to the visitors' line.

The game also ended in controversy with the referee blowing two minutes early despite the hosts having just been awarded a penalty while attacking the Mold line.

Still looking for their first win of 2015, the Llanfair Caereinion side bid to bounce back on Saturday when they head to Ruthin who have lost their last five outings.

WELSHPOOL return to duty at home to Bangor University on Saturday as they look for a much needed win in division three (north).

**Thre-easy
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Gobowen
charges**

GOBOWEN CELTIC maintained their promotion challenge in the Merican Regional League division two with a 3-0 home success over Albrighton Juniors – their third win on the bounce.

Victory took Celtic into second spot, above Stoke Heath on goal difference, but they are still 11 points behind high flying Highley, although they do have two games in hand.

And the Gobowen side will be out to keep up the pressure when they head to Telford based Denon FC on Saturday (2pm).

Ian Heathcock almost put the hosts ahead after just a minute when firing wide from a Lous Morris cross, while Joe Pierpoint put a penalty past the post in the 10th minute.

Gobowen again went close when Pierpoint's shot was tipped onto the bar by keeper Liam Johnson who also saved well from Heathcock moments later.

Morris was the foiled by the woodwork before the deadlock was broken four minutes from half time courtesy of Joe Pierpoint's 20-yard strike after latching onto a rebound.

That lead was doubled on the hour when Ben Pierpoint's corner from the right found Luke Dwyer who drove his shot into the net at the far post.

The chances continued before a third goal arrived two minutes from time when substitute Jason Brindley did well to beat his man on the left before sending a through pass for Morris, who took a touch before firing a left shot from 15 yards past the keeper. Despite the scoreline, Gobowen made hard work of their win with visiting keeper Liam Johnson pulling of a series of fine saves.

ST MARTINS VILLAGE were also in winning form in division two as they saw off Belvidere 5-1 to boost hopes of climbing to mid-table. And it was a frustrating day for **FC OSWESTRY TOWN** whose clash at Wellington in division one was postponed due to problems with pitch availability. On Saturday, Town travel to Shifnal (2pm).

PLACINGS

Stonehouse Brewery Oswestry & District Dominoes League

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Keys	15	9	5	1	56	34	23
Bradford Arms	5	7	4	4	49	41	18
Horseshoe	15	5	7	3	48	42	17
Pennyfont Inn	14	6	5	3	43	41	17
White Lion	15	6	5	4	44	46	17
Black Lion A	15	6	4	5	53	37	16
Cross Foxes	15	7	2	6	48	42	16
Top White Lion	15	6	4	4	48	42	16
Station	15	5	5	5	48	42	15
Ye Old Vaults	15	5	5	5	47	43	15
Black Lion B	15	4	7	4	46	44	15
Black Horse	15	6	3	6	45	45	15
Lion	15	3	5	7	38	52	11
Three Pigeons	15	1	7	7	36	54	9
Oak	15	2	0	13	23	67	4

Darwin Matthews Shrewsbury & District Darts League

	DIVISION 1						
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Masonic A	15	14	1	0	90	30	29
Beacon	16	11	3	2	84	44	25
Rock C	15	12	1	2	78	42	23
Red Castle	16	10	3	3	72	56	23
W/Gates A	16	10	3	3	72	56	23
Crown A/F	16	6	4	6	61	67	15
W/sheaf F/Well	14	6	3	5	57	55	15
Belvidere A	16	7	1	8	60	68	15
Coach	16	5	3	8	61	67	13
Beeches	16	4	4	8	54	74	12
Telegraph	14	3	4	7	52	60	10
Masonic B	16	2	4	10	51	77	8
Comp Dith A	14	3	1	10	45	67	7
Rock B	15	2	3	10	43	77	7
A.I.H.G	16	1	5	10	46	82	7

PLACINGS

Spar Mid Wales League

Division one: Aberystwyth United 5, Tywyn Bryncreg 4, Llanfair Utd 5, Berriew 1; Machynlleth 2, Aberaron 3; Montgomery 3, Bow Street 4; Penrhynoch 1, Carno 2, Waterloo 3, Four Crosses 1. Division two: Hay St Mary's 4, Presteigne 3.

Spar Mid Wales League Cup round one: Talgarth 0, Llansantffraid 4. Central Wales Cup: Abermule 1, Llansantffraid Villa 4.

Division 1	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Llanfair Utd	17	15	2	0	74	26	47
Rhosgoboch	17	9	5	3	38	32	32
Penrhynoch	15	9	4	2	35	16	31
Carno	18	9	3	6	46	31	30
Waterloo	18	8	4	6	47	36	28
Llansantffraid	19	8	4	7	35	37	28
Llansantffraid	14	8	2	4	38	28	26
Bow Street	17	7	4	6	36	37	25
Welshpool	18	6	7	5	33	39	25
Aberaron	18	7	2	9	38	42	23
Four Crosses	19	6	4	9	38	40	22
Machynlleth	17	6	2	9	30	44	20
Berriew	20	5	4	11	33	50	19
Tywyn Bryncreg	17	4	3	11	31	34	15
Montgomery	18	4	3	11	31	34	15
Aber Utd	16	1	0	15	19	58	3

Division 2	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hay St Mary's	15	10	2	0	64	31	33
Knighton	14	12	1	1	68	13	37
Builth Wells	17	9	3	5	47	27	30
Kerry	13	10	0	3	37	21	30
Churchstoke	16	8	7	4	44	52	25
Abermule	14	8	0	6	49	33	24
Borth Utd	14	8	0	6	36	32	24
Bore	15	1	8	35	40	19	9
N'bridge-on-Wye16	5	0	11	28	48	15	1
Dyffryn Banw	13	4	2	7	26	30	14
Presteigne	13	3	3	8	31	52	11
Talgarth	17	3	0	14	23	61	9
Penybont	15	2	0	13	32	60	6

Huws Gray Alliance

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Llandudno.....	20	16	2	2	73	18	50
Caernarfon T.....	19	13	2	4	60	20	41
Guildsfield.....	18	12	3	3	41	21	39
Porthmadog.....	21	11	4	6	42	23	37
Caersws.....	19	9	5	5	43	31	32
Holyhead Hotspur.....	19	4	6	9	27	17	17
Denbigh Town.....	18	9	3	6	33	33	30
Conwy Borough.....	21	9	3	9	39	27	30
Buckley Town.....	18	9	3	6	36	25	30
Flint Town Utd.....	21	2	10	26	17	27	14
Mold Alex.....	20	8	3	9	41	35	27
Rhayader T.....	19	7	5	7	34	29	26
Penycae.....	20	5	4	11	38	50	19
Llandudno T.....	21	5	1	15	36	61	16
Llindrod Wells.....	18	1	2	15	14	71	5
Rhydymwyn.....	19	1	0	18	13	90	0

Mercian Regional Football League

Premier Division	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Telford Jrs	13	11	2	0	41	10	35
Whitchurch Alp	14	9	2	3	37	19	29
FC Hodnet	15	8	5	2	39	23	29
FC Oswestry T	15	8	2	5	39	22	26
Chilids Enall	15	6	4	4	47	22	22
Allscott	14	6	4	4	32	21	22
AFC Bridgnorth R15	7	1	7	27	38	22	11
Shifnal United 9176	5	6	5	32	26	21	21
W ton Ans Res 13	6	3	4	26	30	21	19
Wroxeter Rovers13	6	1	6	37	25	19	19
Church Stretton 18	5	10	30	29	18	18	18
Kelley Bank Utd 13	5	1	7	28	38	16	16
Pres	17	4	9	38	16	16	16
Madeley Sports 16	3	11	23	53	11	0	11
Weston Rhyti	11	0	11	4	77	0	0

Division 1	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
AFC Broseley	16	14	0	2	65	15	42
Dton Comm	14	10	2	2	52	28	32
Wrock Wood	12	10	1	1	44	15	31
Rock Rovers	15	8	1	6	48	20	25
Clee Hill Utd	14	7	2	5	42	26	23
Bishops C T FC 16	7	1	8	34	41	22	11
Brown Clee	14	5	3	26	42	18	18
Wrock W Jrs	17	4	5	8	28	47	17
Claverley	15	4	10	30	54	13	13
O'gates Rngs	13	3	2	11	23	54	11
AFC Wellington	13	1	9	24	44	10	10
Impact United	10	1	1	8	17	35	4

Division 2	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Highley MW	17	15	0	2	117	10	45
Gobowen Celtic 15	0	1	3	74	23	34	3
Stoke Heath	14	11	2	1	74	26	34
Spallag Britannia15	9	2	4	57	35	29	29
Salvadora	16	9	1	6	65	41	28
Shifnal Harriers 15	6	5	4	54	40	23	23
Albington Jrs	16	6	3	7	56	42	21
Riverside	15	5	3	8	42	43	18
AFC Brsly Res	15	4	6	35	25	16	16
St Martins Vill	16	5	2	9	51	55	17
Whitchurch A Res 13	4	9	35	55	13	13	13
Luncys	12	1	0	16	16	221	0
Dens	16	0	16	16	221	0	0

Greenhous Shrewsbury & District Sunday Football

Premier Division	P	W	D	L	GD	Pts
Instones Utd	10	8	1	2	23	25
S.A.H.A.	10	8	0	2	11	24
Coton Rovers	6	11	0	5	1	34
Cruckton Rovers	8	6	0	2	16	18
The Gates	11	5	2	4	0	17
Pontesbury	8	4	2	2	1	14
Lopington	11	3	0	8	-9	9
Compasses	11	3	0	8	-5	9
Anchor Inn	11	1	2	8	-28	5
Wern Sunday	10	0	0	2	-8	0

Division 1	P	W	D	L	GD	Pts
Rock Rovers Youth	9	6	2	1	17	20
Condover Foxes	8	5	0	3	12	15
Peacock C Mians	11	4	5	-2	14	14
Charles Darwin	10	4	1	5	-1	13
Coracle Alec	12	4	1	7	-19	13
Kinrelly	7	4	2	3	-3	11
Norbury	8	4	2	3	-3	11
Ministry	7	2	3	2	-1	9
Rock Rovers	8	2	1	5	-10	7

Division 2	P	W	D	L	GD	Pts
Athletic Market	9	7	2	0	26	23
Beacon	7	6	1	0	17	1
Salvadora	10	6	0	4	18	18
Unison	10	4	2	4	2	14
Saddlers	9	3	2	0	1	11
Steam Wagon	8	4	2	2	10	14
Bears Head	10	4	2	4	4	16
Telegraph	10	2	3	5	-3	9
Crown Coleham	8	1	0	7	-10	3
Brocton Rovers	10	0	9	9	-38	3

Division 3	P	W	D	L	GD	Pts
Red Barne	8	8	0	0	24	24
S.A.H.A. Youth	10	5	3	2	5	17
Sundome	10	1	1	8	-4	4
Snailbeach	10	2	4	4	4	14
Castledies	10	4	1	5	-7	13
Craven Arms Sun	7	3	1	3	3	10
Edstone Heath	10	1	1	8	-4	4
Bull In The Barne	8	1	2	5	-19	5
White Lion	6	1	4	1	-7	4

Division 4	P	W	D	L	GD	Pts
Reman Youth	11	10	0	1	46	30
Onslow	12	8	2	2	26	26
Nags Head	10	6	2	2	9	20
Monkton Utd	11	6	1	4	16	19
Price of Wales	11	5	2	4	-1	17
Dun Cow	11	5	2	4	-2	17
Beaches	11	5	2	4	-2	17
Wheatstone	11	4	2	5	-12	16
Anchor Frankwell	12	3	1	8	-19	10
Bricklayers	11	3	3	5	-19	9
Old PO Wem	12	1	1	10	-44	4



The New Saints' Ryan Fraughan has joined Connah's Quay on loan until the end of the season. Picture: Mark Booth

Five-star Llanfair march on towards league crown

UNBEATEN Llanfair United continued their relentless march towards the Spar Mid Wales League division one crown with a 5-1 home beating of Berriew at the Mount.

The visitors had started well, but Chris Gethin headed high-flying Llanfair in front against the run of play before the Rhewysiders hit back to level when Marc Jones fired home a rebound.

However, the league leaders carved a two-goal cushion at the break with a strike from Andrew Hughes despite provider Gethin appearing offside, which was followed by another from Ross Frame following some sloppy Berriew play.

The score may have flattered Llanfair at half time, but Rhys Stephens' side showed just why they are top as they bossed the second period despite Jones hitting the bar for the visitors.

The leaders extended their lead through Paul Griffiths and James Davies sealed the victory when latching onto a Hughes pass, with the win taking the leaders a commanding 15 points clear at the top.

Had it not been for some saves from Danny Foulkes in the Berriew goal, the margin of victory would have been far more emphatic.

Will Pritchard scored twice as WATERLOO ROVERS defeated FOUR CROSSES 3-1 at Maesydro to move up to fifth, with Scott Holly also finding the net while Gaz Jones responded.

After their five-goal beating of Rhosgoboch the previous week, second bottom MONTGOMERY slipped back into basement danger after losing 4-3 at home to Bow Street.

Penrhynoch moved up to third with a 1-0 verdict against Carno, Jonny Evans among the only goal of the game in the first half.

Aberystwyth University remain rock bottom after their 4-2 home reverse to fellow strugglers Tywyn

Barton fires up Guils with injury-time winner

GUILDSFIELD left it late as an injury-time strike from top scorer Danny Barton edged out Caersws 1-0 to maintain their pursuit of honours in the Huws Gray Cymru Alliance.

With little between the sides in a hard-fought mid Wales derby, top scorer Barton scrambled in his 18th league goal of the season to stun the Bluebirds.

Although Gareth Jones hit the post for the Guils, Caersws had the better of the first half with Mike Collister lobbing onto the bar just before half time while John Owen and Steve Blenkinsop also went close. But the Guils, in their first action of the year following three postponements due to the weather, looked stronger in the second period and again showed their never-say-die attitude as they snatched the points in the dying moments.

From Mark Davies' free-kick, Gareth Jones saw his initial effort blocked before Barton forced in from close range in the resulting scramble.

Victory lifted the villagers up to third, just a couple of points off second, but they

Loan switch for Fraughan

WINGER Ryan Fraughan, who has struggled to cement a regular start for The New Saints following a spate of injuries, has joined Welsh Premier rivals Gap Connah's Quay on loan until the end of the season.

The former Tranmere Rovers player arrived at TNS on loan from Stockport County in January 2012, before making the move permanent in the summer of 2012.

But his appearances this season have been limited, so he has been loaned out to GAP in a bid for much needed match time.

Fraughan is one of a number of TNS players currently on loan in the Welsh Premier, with defender Steve Evans also at GAP.

Young midfielders Ryan Edwards

and Ryan Kershaw, meanwhile, are now with Cefn Druids.

"Ryan (Fraughan) is an extremely talented individual and has been very unfortunate with niggling little injuries that have plagued him for the past nine months," said boss Craig Harrison.

"The injuries have stopped him getting a run of games in the team and it is now important for him to go out on loan and get as many games as possible under his belt.

Fitness

"His match fitness will improve while at Connah's Quay and he will be like a new signing when he returns. His quality speaks for itself and he will be an asset to Connah's Quay."

Meanwhile, four young TNS players have been selected for a training camp with the Wales Under-18 Academies Representative Squad.

Andy Wycherley, James Jones, James Papiorny and Nyasha Mwamuka have all been called up for the two-day camp and will take place at Dragon Park, Newport on February 7 and 8.

Coach Steve Evans was delighted that four members of his squad have earned recognition and added: "It is great that the four lads have been called up and I am sure they will do really well.

"This call-up is proof that the hard work they are putting in is getting noticed and they now need to continue working hard and pushing on."



BERRIEW boss Dave Jones, former manager of Welshpool, received the Spar Mid Wales League division one manager of the month award for December before his side's clash at high-flying Llanfair United. Jones (left) is pictured with Paul Lombard from the Spar in Berriew (centre) and Mike Pearce, club coach and a Spar League executive committee member. However, the curse of the manager of the month award was to strike later as Berriew lost 5-1 to the runaway league leaders.

Saints fire five more

THREE goals in the space of seven minutes in the second half saw St Martins move up to second in the West Midlands League division one with a 5-1 victory over Worcester Raiders at Park Hall.

Having defeated basement side Team Dudley 7-3 the previous week, the goals again flowed for the Saints - but they had to wait until the second half before turning on the style.

Until then, the Raiders made it tough for the promotion chasers, although Karl Bailey went close to an early breakthrough when hitting the post in the first minute.

It was the Worcester side who went ahead on five minutes when Jamie Heason smashed his shot into the roof of the net from the edge of the box after the hosts had failed to clear their lines.

The Saints were back on terms five minutes later when a ball over the top was only half cleared by the keeper and Jamie Hands

took advantage to score. Despite being under pressure, the hosts went close to taking the lead as Shin Miah's shot was kept out by a smart save.

But the complexion of the game changed dramatically with three goals in the first seven minutes of the second half, with Bailey getting the first when firing across the keeper.

Jack Hughes then found Hands who set up Sam Nash to make it 3-1 and Dan Graham added a fourth from a James Durman pass.

Worcester's hopes faded further when they had a player sent off, but the Saints failed to capitalise until Bailey got his second of the game when rounding the keeper in the 88th minute.

Victory puts St Martins second on goal difference, but they still trail Bromyard Town by 12 points, although they do have three games in hand on the leaders.

Venables tops Euro hotshots

HOT-SHOT Chris Venables, the former Welshpool Town midfielder, became the top goalscorer in Europe in 2014, beating a host of big names including Cristiano Ronaldo.

Venables, now with Aberystwyth Town, won last season's Welsh Premier Golden Boot honour after scoring 24 goals for the Seaside.

And this season he has continued that fine form to net 23 times in his first 19 league games of the campaign.

His efforts have helped the Seaside enjoy a magnificent season to date, gaining 39 points from their opening 21 matches.

Owen hits target in Morda win

MORDA UNITED secured their third successive victory of their restarted season with a fine team performance against a young and skilful Waterloo Rovers Colts side.

Danny Owen hit his third goal in as many games before Elliot Eaton, John Breese and Emlyn Williams each found the net to secure a 4-0 victory that maintained their side's unbeaten record in the Montgomeryshire League division two.

Work on the Weston Road pitch the night before by manager Colin Turner and secretary Rob Drury ensured that this fixture did not fall foul of the weather.

After George Turner twice went close and Danny Owen

SPORT

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We are never beaten hails boss

GUILDSFIELD boss Mike Parry again praised his side's resolve as they battle to hang onto the coat-tails of the Cymru Alliance leaders.

Danny Barton's last-gasp goal, his 18th of the season, lifted the Guils up to third, just a couple of points off second spot, but they still trail leaders Llandudno by 11 points, although they do have two games in hand.

It's not the first time that the villagers have snatched points at the death, and they have every chance of another win when they head to rock bottom Rhydyrnwyn on Saturday.

And Parry, whose side were playing the first time in a month, said: "We're never beaten, we keep going and try to win right to the last kick. It was an important win, and you would not have thought we hadn't played for a few weeks. The pitch was heavy, but there was no cramp or tiredness, which shows how fit we are."

Guilsfield, meanwhile, will have home advantage in their Huws Gray Cup semi-final against Holyhead Hotspur to be played on February 28, with the winners to meet either Caersws or Penycae who play the week before.

Podium joy for Titans swimmers

ELLESMERE College Titans continued their remarkable rise when competing in the North-west Premier division area finals of the National Arena Swimming League in Manchester.

The team came home with even more top three positions than in any previous year – with eight first place finishes, plus 12 second and 13 third placings.

Together with another record number of personal bests and some of the quickest times throughout the whole country, the Titans finished in their highest ever position in the league with second place, 28 points behind overall winners, the mighty Stockport Metro.

This display sees the club make history by clinching a place in the A cup final at Cardiff's International 50m pool on April 26.

Full story – see page 38



Bayern's Pep Guardiola

Super Saints are matching Bayern

WHAT do Welsh Premier League champions The New Saints have in common with German giants Bayern Munich?

The answer is that both remain unbeaten in their respective leagues. They were two of just six top-flight sides across UEFA's vast catchment area, which also includes Israel, that could still boast that fact.

TNS' fine record of 16 wins and five draws from 21 matches puts them into an exclusive group that along with Pep Guardiola's Bundesliga leaders (won 14, drawn three) also includes Icelandic side Stjarnan (W15, D7), Croatian outfit Dynamo Zagreb (W15, D4), Maltese team Hibernians

FC (W18, D1) and Dynamo Kiev of Ukraine (W11, D3).

Craig Harrison's side, who are regulars in the Champions League qualifying rounds, know they have a lot of ground to make up before they are regularly rubbing shoulders with Europe's truly elite sides in the group stages.

But the club, which has faced Slovan Bratislava and Legia Warsaw in the Champions League second qualifying round in the last two seasons, is determined to be locking horns with the continent's bigger names more and more in the coming years.

And Harrison said: "The long-term

plan is to keep being successful domestically, but on the other hand to see if we can compete or even get into the next round (of the Champion's League) or even the Europa League group stages."

"If you look at Shamrock Rovers four or five years ago, they were a club of the same stature as us, and they got to the Europa League group stages."

"They even had Tottenham Hotspur in their group (in 2011) so that is obviously our long-term plan."

"But obviously you can't take your eye off the short-term game either and you have got to win your domestic league first and foremost."



TNS' Craig Harrison

Border men in hunt to hit back

OSWESTRY'S title chances in the West Midlands Hockey League division one appear to be over after suffering a 3-2 loss at leaders Old Wulfrunians – but the border men still have their sights set on promotion.

It was their second defeat of the season at the hands of the title favourites who won 8-1 on the opening day after the border men could only field a depleted team.

And in the return, Os made the trip to Wolverhampton with one player short due to problems over availability to leave them with a mountain to climb even before the first whistle.

Despite that, they carved a two-goal lead through the league's top scorer Jack Morgan who took his tally to 24 for the season.

But the Old Wulfs clawed their way back, making the most of their one man advantage as Oswestry's efforts saw them eventually run out of steam in their first game of the New Year.

It has been a disappointing couple of weeks for Oswestry who were aggrieved to be docked six points for failing to register their new signings following a change in league rules.

However, they remain determined to push for promotion and will be out to bounce back when they host third bottom Barlaston on Saturday.

Oswestry ladies also suffered a setback when losing 2-1 at leaders Neston South Wirral Ladies, to slip six points off the pace in the Cheshire Womens League division two.

WEST MIDLANDS 1										
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts			
Old Wulfrunians	11	10	0	1	46	13	30			
Bloxwich	10	8	1	1	55	12	25			
Perthore	10	7	0	3	36	25	21			
Oswestry	11	8	1	2	57	19	19			
Leamington	11	6	0	5	34	23	18			
Whitchurch	11	5	0	6	24	37	15			
Newtown	10	4	2	4	24	25	14			
Evesham	11	3	1	7	24	39	10			
Droitwich	11	3	1	7	17	39	10			
Barlaston	11	1	2	8	20	52	-5			

CAE Glas Cricket Club hold their annual meeting on Sunday, February 1 at the Golden Lion, Morda Road, Oswestry at 7.30. All members are urged to attend.



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FIRST TNS FINAL ON TREBLE TRAIL

TREBLE-HUNTERS The New Saints bid to lift their first silverware of the season when the Welsh Premier leaders tackle Bala Town in the final of the Word Cup at Newtown on Sunday (12.45).

The Saints have lifted the trophy five times, winning it three years in a row from 2009-2011, and will be out to make up for the disappointment of losing on penalties to Carmarthen Town in their last final appearance two years ago.

Standing in their way will be a Bala side who have proved a solid force in the league this season, their consistent form taking them to third in the table and in the mix for European football this summer.

The Lakesiders also know what it's like to lose on penalties in the final after being edged out by Carmarthen 12 months ago, while games between this weekend's rivals always provide close fought affairs.

But TNS, unbeaten in 26 outings in all competitions this season, will be determined to maintain their relentless run as they chase the first leg of an unprecedented treble – with the league crown and Welsh Cup also in their sights.

In reaching the final, they have seen off Airbus UK 2-1, Penybont 3-0 before needing extra time to sink Port Talbot 2-1 in the semi-finals, all the ties being played at Park Hall.

Boss Craig Harrison has used the competition as a chance to rotate his strong squad, and will back whatever side he puts out to lift the trophy on Newtown's 3G pitch.

Wales manager Chris Coleman will be attending the final for a third year in

By John Bridgwater

a row. He said: "The New Saints are the favourites, of course, and they are technically the best team in the competition, but Bala have every chance as the past two Word Cup finals have shown, anything can happen."

"I'm really looking forward to this one as both clubs are flying high in our national league."

Technically

"The Saints are still going for the treble of course, but Bala are a good side, technically and physically and I'm sure their lads are really up for this one."

Coleman added: "TNS will also want to lay that ghost of losing on penalties last time, and the fact that this final is again at Newtown on a new 3G facility gives them the opportunity to do so."

Due to both teams playing in hooped style shirts, the Saints will be wearing a retro style green jersey, the traditional colours of Llansantffraid who form part of the merged club.

The Saints' Welsh Premier clash at home to Carmarthen Town, rescheduled

for Tuesday night following its first postponement on Sunday, was called off a second time due to the wintry weather. They will try again at Park Hall next Wednesday.

■ TNS Ladies put their FAWomens Cup defeat to Derby County behind them as they made a winning return to the West Midlands Regional Premier league action with a 4-2 success at Shropshire rivals Allscott Ladies.

Sophie Edwards headed the Saints in front from a Laura Morris corner, but the hosts were level through Jamie Phillips who tapped in after keeper Charlotte Edmunds had made a superb save.

Saints regained the lead when Jade Hill lobbed in from 25 yards, before Emily Ridge did the same to give her side a two-goal cushion going into the break. A

llscott pulled one back with a 20-yard strike from Phillips, before Morris made the points safe.

Saints who host Birmingham & West Midlands Police in a top-of-the-table clash on Sunday.

Mountain aces are warming up



Llanrhade'r's Gee Atherton and Rachel Atherton training in California

REIGNING world downhill bike champion, Llanrhade'r's Gee Atherton, is backing the triumphant GT Factory Racing team to go from strength to strength in 2015.

As the riders threw themselves into their first intensive training camp in Del Mar, California, Atherton Racing confirmed the continuation of their successful relation with GT Bicycles and also announced three new partners for the coming season – Jeep, iXS and Bell.

"I honestly believe that we have the best team in the world," said Gee, the men's elite world champion. **More next week.**

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